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CONTENTS

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DISARMAMENT/START/MBFR

Marshal Kulikov on Threats to European Security [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 6 Apr]	AA 1
Further Reaction to U.S. Interim Proposals	AA 5
Beglov Assessment [Prague RUDE PRAVO 2 Apr]	AA 5
Aims of Initiative [Mnatsakanov]	AA 6
Reasons Option Unacceptable [Zubkov]	AA 7
Danger Seen in U.S. Plans for Stealth Missiles [Mozgovoy in SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 2 Apr]	AA 8
U.S. Draft on Chemical Weapons Ban Viewed [Korshunov in NEW TIMES No 13]	AA 10
West Urged To Respond to Bloc MBFR Proposals [Orehov in PRAVDA 2 Apr]	AA 11
Commentary Lauds Soviet Role in Disarmament [Matyash]	AA 12

COMMUNIST RELATIONS

Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Meeting Detailed	BB 1
Talks End 7 April	BB 1
Iusak Receives Ministers	BB 1
Gromyko Departs for Home	BB 2
PRAVDA Reviews Book on CEMA Economic Planning [Barakhtha, 6 Apr]	BB 2

UNITED STATES & CANADA

U.S. Weapons Development Programs Viewed [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Apr]	A 1
'Militarization' of Science [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Mar]	A 1
Space Weapons Systems	A 2
Binary Weapons Project [PRAVDA]	A 3

EASTERN EUROPE

Further Reportage on Marshal Ustinov in GDR	F 1
Ustinov's Apr Dinner Speech	F 1
Hoffmann's Dinner Speech	F 1
Ustinov Addresses GDR Regiment	F 2
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Outlines Activities [6 Apr]	F 2

Hungary's Czinege on 'Combat Cooperation'	F 3
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Apr]	
Soviet-Hungarian TU Communiqué Published	F 5
[TRUD 27 Mar]	
Grishin, Promyslov Greet BCP Leaders on Jubilee	F 8
[MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 18 Mar]	
SFRY Increases Sales Taxes To Balance Budget	F 8
[PRAVDA 6 Apr]	

WESTERN EUROPE

TASS Cites French Press on Expulsion of Soviets	G 1
Speculations About KGB Activity in France	G 1
Former Officials Interviewed [AFP]	G 1
Former TASS Correspondent [AFP]	G 2
Finnish Prime Minister Ends Moscow Visit	G 3
Stenback Luncheon Speech	G 3
Finnish Embassy Reception	G 4
Delegation Departs for Home	G 4
Additional Information on Romanov Helsinki Visit	G 5
Koivisto-Romanov Talks	G 5
Koivisto Luncheon Speech [Helsinki]	G 5
Romanov Luncheon Speech	G 5
USSR Embassy Dinner	G 6
Romanov, Finnish Communists Meet	G 6
Serov Comments on Norway 'Anti-Soviet Hearings'	G 7
Sizov-Led CPSU Delegation Back From Luxembourg	G 8
[PRAVDA 3 Apr]	

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Soviet Maritime Minister on Visit to Syria	H 1
Meeting With Al-Kasm	H 1
Shipping Agreement Signed; Departure	H 1
USSR Peace Committee Issues Statement on Syria	H 1
Soviet Deputy Minister Receives Kuwaiti Envoy	H 2
CPSU Delegation Returns From Moroccan Congress	H 2
[PRAVDA 1 Apr]	
Commentary Lauds Maghreb Rapprochement	H 3
[Bilyakov]	

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Shalayev Confers With Nicaraguan TU Chief	K 1
[TRUD 6 Apr]	
USSR, Cuban Officials Discuss Economic Ties	K 1
[IZVESTIYA 3 Apr]	
Marchuk Receives Cuban Science Academy Official	K 1
[PRAVDA 2 Apr]	

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Developments for 4-6 April	T 1
Late March Weather, Crop Development Reviewed	T 3
[Litvinenko in SELSKAYA ZHIZN]	
Progress of Spring Sowing Campaign Reported	T 4
CSA Data Summary	T 4
Agriculture Ministry Official	T 4
New Georgian Agricultural Body Convenes	T 5
[ZARYA VOSTOKA 17 Mar]	
Kazakhstan Adopts Decision on Fodder Supply	T 7
PRAVDA Reviews Book on USSR Food Program	T 7
Briefs: Kirov Agriculture Work Examined	T 7

MARSHAL KULIKOV ON THREATS TO EUROPEAN SECURITY

PM061207 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Apr 83 Second Edition p 3

[TASS-attributed article by Marshal of the Soviet Union V. Kulikov, commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces: "Our Aim Is To Preserve Peace"]

[Text] The Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries recently put forward a number of constructive new proposals. They are set out in the report by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, "Sixty Years of the USSR"; in the Political Declaration adopted at the conference of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact states held in Prague on 4 and 5 January; and in other documents of the parties and governments of the socialist community countries. These proposals represent a real alternative to the policy of arms building pursued by the United States and its allies and aimed at preparing for war.

It was with special attention and interest that the peoples of the world greeted the socialist countries' proposals relating to Europe. This is understandable. The destiny of peace today depends largely on the state of affairs and the development of events in Europe. This is evidenced by the lessons of history. Two world wars started on this continent in the first half of the present century. Now Europe has been transformed by the leaders of the United States and the NATO bloc into the main bridgehead for aggression against the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies.

In these conditions special significance attaches to the fraternal countries' proposal on concluding a treaty on mutual nonuse of military force and the maintenance of relations of peace between the states of the two military political groupings -- the Warsaw Pact and NATO. The implementation of this proposal would contribute to the normalization of the political groupings -- the Warsaw Pact and NATO. The implementation of this proposal would contribute to the normalization of the political climate and the consolidation of detente and security in Europe. Indeed, the core of this treaty, as the Warsaw Pact states' Political Declaration says, should be a mutual commitment by the participants of both alliances not to be the first to use nuclear or conventional arms against each other and, consequently, not to be the first to use any kind of military force against each other.

In the interests of preserving peace the socialist countries recently put forward another constructive proposal at the talks in Vienna -- on reaching an agreement on reducing NATO and Warsaw Pact Armed Forces in Central Europe to equal quantitative levels -- 900,000 men on each side, irrespective of how many troops they have at present.

No one who is sincerely interested in strengthening peace, who is not seeking diktat and aggression vis-a-vis other countries and peoples can ignore these and other proposals by the Warsaw Pact countries.

How do the United States and NATO leaders react to these proposals?

Going by statements of U.S. President Reagan and many other official representatives of countries of the NATO bloc, the course of the buildup of military preparations is continuing there. Everything is subjugated to striving to ensure military superiority over the Soviet Union and its allies so as to establish domination over the course of world events. The sole real and just basis for relations between NATO countries and the Warsaw Treaty countries -- equality and equal security -- is being rejected. The very principle of peaceful coexistence is attacked. The Soviet Union is proclaimed an enemy against which a "crusade" is organized.

The arms race in the United States and a number of NATO countries is assuming an ever wider scope and passes on to a qualitatively new, much more dangerous phase. It comprises all the types of both nuclear and conventional armaments. The strategic offensive forces, first strike nuclear missile weapon systems, are being built up at a particularly high pace.

The number of missiles is being increased; their yield, range, precision of target destruction are being heightened; measures are taken to lower their vulnerability. Preparations are being conducted for the deployment of MX intercontinental ballistic missiles, new versions of "Trident" missiles are being developed, strategic bombers are being equipped with cruise missiles. As a result of the implementation of the Pentagon's plans and programs the capability of the U.S. strategic offensive forces for nuclear ammunition delivery at one launch will increase by no less than 50 percent in the current decade alone.

The Washington administration is putting increased pressure on its European partners in NATO seeking to deploy, against the will of the peoples, medium-range missiles on the territories of the FRG, Britain, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands. This threatens the disruption, in the West's favor, of the existing military parity in Europe, of the rough balance of the strategic forces of the USSR and the United States. This would undermine international stability and encourage even more the aggressive aspirations of the militaristic circles of imperialism.

Preparations for chemical warfare and for combat operations in outer space are in full swing in the United States. New means of mass annihilation of mankind and all life, neutron and biological weapons, are being developed and stockpiled. NATO countries are reequipping their armies, supplying them with more up-to-date tanks, planes, artillery systems, and means of communication and control.

Alongside the stockpiling of destructive weapon systems new concepts and views on warfare are being developed. The strategic doctrines of imperialism are no longer limited to the notorious "nuclear deterrence," but allow for the use of a "preemptive strike," and for conducting a "limited" and "protracted" nuclear war.

The Pentagon and NATO staffs are inventing ever new versions as to how it is best to start nuclear war in the hope of winning it. The experience of the last world wars is taken into consideration when millions of people were perishing at fronts while U.S. capitalists, sitting it out beyond the ocean, were getting fabulous profits.

The recklessness and great danger of such calculations are apparent. The Political Consultative Committee, guiding by sober assessments, warned: "If a nuclear war breaks out, there can be no victors in it. It will inevitably lead to the annihilation of whole peoples, to colossal destruction and catastrophic consequences for civilisation and the very life on earth."

The Warsaw Treaty member-states are not seeking to undermine the military-strategic balance that has been established in Europe and the world, are not striving to achieve unilateral superiority since they were never and are not going to attack anyone. The Soviet people, the peoples of other countries of the socialist community know well what war is like, know how much grief, loss of life and devastation it brings. Therefore, they spare neither efforts nor means to prevent the disruption of the existing military-strategic parity, which is an important guarantee of peace.

Bellicose imperialist circles' hopes that they will be able to reverse history and push aside or even destroy socialism, having first achieved military superiority over it, are no more than an illusion, but an exceedingly dangerous illusion since in the present explosive situation it may act as a detonator. Whatever kind and quantity of weapons the United States and NATO acquire, the Soviet Armed Forces will have a reliable counter to these weapons. Answering a PRAVDA correspondent's questions, CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Yu.V. Andropov noted: "All efforts to attain military superiority over the USSR are futile, the Soviet Union will never permit this; it will never allow itself to be left defenseless in the face of any threat."

The socialist community countries are now a worldwide force capable of resisting imperialism's aggressive plans. And, at the same time, they are a profoundly humane and peace-loving force which cares about the vital interests of the working people of their countries and of the whole world. Despite all of imperialism's intrigues the socialist community's international position is strong. It has the will and determination to proceed step by step toward strengthening European security and normalizing the world political atmosphere. It has the strength to withstand imperialism's military threat.

The Warsaw Pact Organization is a reliable instrument for defending socialism and the cause of peace and security. Its entire activity is geared toward deepening detente, curbing the arms race, preserving peace and eliminating the threat of a new war. This remains the chief direction of the Warsaw Pact states' policy. It is the extensive military preparations by the United States and its NATO partners which are forcing the communist and workers parties and governments of the allied countries to devote unflagging attention to maintaining the combat readiness and combat capability of their armed forces at a level enabling them to repulse any aggression whatever its origin. The Joint Armed Forces and fraternal armies have all they need to perform their tasks.

The Warsaw Pact states' Defense Ministers Committee is constantly studying questions related to strengthening the allied states' defenses and developing and improving the Joint Armed Forces. Its January session in Prague adopted decisions on further strengthening the defense capability of the socialist community countries.

The joint and national commands are making every effort to constantly maintain the combat readiness and combat capability of the Joint Armed Forces at the proper level. Their material and technical base is being steadily improved on the basis of scientific and technical achievements and the heightened economic potential of the socialist countries. The organizational structure of the forces and organs of control is being improved. Military theory is being developed in conditions of growing combat cooperation. The field, air and sea training of personnel is being improved.

It should be emphasized that command headquarters and troop exercises play an important part in combat training and in improving methods of combat use of troops and naval forces.

Recent exercises of various sizes and for various purposes, such as "Soyuz," "Brotherhood in Arms," "Druzhba," "Shield" and others, demonstrated the enhanced field, air and sea training of units and ships and the ability of commanders and headquarters to reliably control troops and naval forces. During these exercises the accent is constantly on maintaining close collaboration between coalition grouping of forces and comprehensive backup for their actions.

Joint exercises are a graphic example of the allied armies' growing combat collaboration. They not only make it possible to check the correctness of general military theoretical views of the character and methods of waging combat actions but also provide good material for determining the directions of the further development of forces and navies and the improvement of their training.

The standard of troops' combat training depends primarily on the competence of army and navy officer cadres. Today the allied armies and navies have well-trained cadres dedicated to the socialist cause. Their officer corps is made up of representatives of the working class, the working peasantry and the people's intelligentsia.

The vast majority of generals, admirals and officers of the fraternal armies, about 90 percent, have higher or secondary military education. Between 85 and 97 percent are members of communist or workers parties. Many of them are graduates of Soviet military educational establishments. The national and joint commands are interested in constantly improving the quality of officer training.

Military science is a most important factor in increasing the Joint Armed Forces' combat might. Problems relating to the strengthening of the Warsaw Pact countries' defense capability, the development and improvement of the Joint Armed Forces and the solution of tasks by coalition groupings of forces and comprehensive backup for them are being elaborated through the joint efforts of the fraternal armies.

In view of the intensification of NATO war preparations, the Joint Armed Forces leadership is taking additional steps to elaborate questions relating to the defense of the allied countries.

The peoples of the socialist countries need peace. They do not need foreign lands or resources, or anything at all belonging to someone else. If they are strengthening their defense might and maintaining the combat readiness of their armies and the Joint Armed Forces at a high level it is only because they are compelled to do this by the aggressive intrigues of the bellicose circles of imperialism.

As the storm clouds of the war danger gather on the horizon, one can see quite distinctly the unity of views and actions, the solidarity and mutual assistance of the socialist community countries. Their fraternal combat alliance, based on socialism's massive economic, sociopolitical and spiritual potential, is invincible.

FURTHER REACTION TO U.S. INTERIM PROPOSALS

Beglov Assessment

AU051250 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 2 Apr 83 p 7

[Apartak Beglov article: "Reagan's Easter Rockets: Commentator of the Soviet APN Agency on the 'Interim Solution'" -- capitalized passages published in boldface]

[Text] THE TIMING, METHOD AND CONTENTS OF THE "INTERIM SOLUTION" TO THE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE SUBMITTED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN FORCES OBSERVERS TO CONCLUDE THAT IT IS ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF WESTERN EUROPE RATHER THAN TO ITS SOVIET PARTNER IN THE GENEVA TALKS. EVERYTHING INDICATES THAT IT IS MEANT TO PLAY THE ROLE OF A "SEDATIVE" TO SOOTHE PUBLIC OPINION IN ANTICIPATION OF A NEW SURGE OF PROTESTS AGAINST THE THREAT OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. NUCLEAR MISSILES IN WESTERN EUROPE.

Why do we find it difficult to regard this proposal as constructive? Above all, because it does not ensure the same security level for the Soviet Union and for all of Europe as it does for the United States. Because IF THE "INTERIM SOLUTION" IS TO SIGNIFY THE DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE OF AT LEAST SOME OF THE PLANNED PERSHING II MISSILES AND OF MISSILES WITH A FLAT-FLIGHT TRAJECTORY, THIS ALONE WOULD CHANGE THE STRATEGIC SITUATION. The United States would thus acquire on this side of the Atlantic, on the Soviet Union's doorstep, positions for carrying out strategic nuclear strikes against the Soviet Union and, simultaenously, positions for playing out the script of a limited nuclear war on the European Continent so as to keep U.S. territory out of the exchange of nuclear strikes.

This is also why the Soviet Union has always stressed in this context the DUAL THREAT of deploying U.S. missiles in Western Europe -- a threat both to the Soviet Union and to all of Europe.

Washington is concentrating its propaganda and policy efforts on convincing people that the "Soviet monopoly" of some kind of "entirely new species" of nuclear arms is the main reason why it is imperative to deploy U.S. missiles. People are meant to be blinded by this trick and to forget that each side has the right to choose its own defense variant. In a situation when the United States has concentrated more than 700 intermediate-range nuclear weapon carriers at the Soviet Union's doorstep, including aircraft, and when Britain and France have targeted an additional 260 of these arms to the east, including 162 missiles deployed on submarines and ground bases, the Soviet Union has chosen land-based missiles as its means of balancing this potential. Actually, THESE MEANS WERE ALREADY STANDING AGAINST THE WESTERN POTENTIAL 10 YEARS AGO, when they were called SS-4 and SS-5, BUT AT THAT TIME BOTH WASHINGTON AND NATO CONSIDERED THIS NATURAL.

But in that case, what has happened to make the Pentagon start talking about a "new species of weapon," that is, about Soviet intermediate-range land-based missiles, which have suddenly become unacceptable to the United States?

There is only one answer for this: THE PENTAGON WANTS TO ACQUIRE POSITIONS FOR DEPLOYING FIRST-STRIKE WEAPONS CAMOUFLAGED UNDER THE NAME "INTERMEDIATE-RANGE WEAPONS," AND TO ACQUIRE THEM AT A TIME WHEN THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOTHING SIMILAR TO THEM AT THE U.S. DOORSTEP.

Washington, as well as other Western capitals, grasped long ago that the so-called zero option, the option of unilaterally disarming the Soviet Union, is unacceptable. Then why is it that under these conditions, despite all that follows from the logic of a dialogue based on equal rights, why is it that the American side has not seriously studied any of the three successively amended and expanded proposals submitted by the Soviet Union in Geneva, or the Soviet announcement of the unilateral moratorium on the further deployment of its missiles? The answer is again obvious: THE ONLY REASON WAS THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF PERSHING II MISSILES AND OF MISSILES WITH A FLAT-FLIGHT TRAJECTORY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ONLY GOAL PURSUED BY WASHINGTON AND THAT EVERYTHING ELSE, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS, HAS MERELY BEEN MEANT TO HELP MAKE IT EASIER TO REACH THIS GOAL.

This is also the foundation from which the broad and long-term propaganda preparation for an official proclamation of the "interim solution" proceeds -- a solution which is presented to the public almost as a "great feat of self-denial," but which IN REALITY ENSURES THE PENTAGON OF THE GRADUAL, PHASE-BY-PHASE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL. The fact that this proposal was voiced publicly when it had already lost all its merit with the other side in advance speaks for itself. This alone emphasizes the real purpose: TO TRY AND SOOTHE THE PEOPLE'S MASSES AT EASTER, TO BLUNT THEIR VIGILANCE AND TO ACHIEVE THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE FIRST MISSILES. The Soviet leadership has stressed on quite a few occasions that the USSR will continue to strive for an agreement based on foundations that are just for both sides. However, Moscow has always pointed out the serious consequences which the deployment of new U.S. intermediate-range missiles in Europe would have and that it will not permit the safety of the Soviet Union and its allies to be placed in danger.

Aims of Initiative

LD052001 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1440 GMT 4 Apr 83

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Eduard Mnatsakanov]

[Text] The world public, foreign newspapers, television and radio are continuing to discuss the replies given by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov to the questions of the PRAVDA correspondent and also the press conference of Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko -- statements by Soviet statesmen on key questions of the international situation and the foreign policy of our country. Many newspapers note the exceedingly great precision, clarity and conviction of these pronouncements, the deep sincerity and honesty in the evaluations and in the approach of the Soviet Union to these very important problems of international life.

They also report that some people in Washington, and in some other NATO capitals too, have expressed disappointment at the fact that the so-called interim option of the U.S. President has proved to be unacceptable to the Soviet Union. But this is insincere and false disappointment. For the authors of the Reagan option knew from the very beginning that it was unacceptable. And it was conceived not as a subject for serious talks in Geneva but for other purposes.

Comrade Gromyko gave an exhaustive description of the new American option. The Soviet Union is being invited to reduce the number of its medium-range missiles. In return the United States will still deploy its Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe, although in smaller numbers. The fewer Soviet missiles there will be, the fewer missiles will be deployed by the Americans. And if the Soviet Union eliminates all its missiles, all its medium-range devices, then the Americans too will not deploy their missiles. Zero for zero, so to speak.

But perhaps there might be some logic in this if the United States and the other NATO countries did not already, at present, have nuclear weapons in Europe, including nuclear missiles aimed at ourselves. But these do exist. For example, there are six American aircraft carriers in waters around the coasts of West Europe, and each of them has 40 aircraft capable of delivering nuclear weapons. There are nuclear bombers; there are NATO submarines which are also equipped with nuclear missiles. The NATO countries of Britain and France have nuclear missiles. And finally West Germany has been turned into a veritable nuclear arsenal. What is to happen to all this mass of nuclear weapons which are aimed, I repeat, at us and our allies? Nothing, they reply. The nuclear missile weapons which NATO already has in West Europe at present must for some reason or other not be taken into account. They do not want it to be touched. It must not be taken into consideration at the Geneva talks. Why? There is no intelligible answer to this question. But there are demagogic assertions, exaggerations, juggling with facts.

As we see, the Reagan interim solution like his zero option pursues only one aim: that of the unilateral disarmament of the USSR in the face of the further buildup of nuclear armaments by the other side. That is how they view the principle of equality and identical security in Washington. Our country will never agree to the violation of this principle. As Comrade Andropov stated: All attempts to achieve military superiority over the USSR are futile. The Soviet Union will never allow that. It will never prove to be unarmed in the face of any threat.

But why, then, do they offer us proposals whose unacceptability is so obvious? Because, the French L'HUMANITE replies, the U.S. Administration just does not think at all about arms limitation. It pursues one single aim, the newspaper writes, that of causing the Geneva talks to fail and of deploying new nuclear missiles in West Europe on any pretext.

In the opinion of many foreign newspapers Reagan's proposals are just a propaganda gesture for the countries of West Europe. This gesture is intended to help the governments of Britain, Italy, and the FRG in their attempts to take the heat out of the anti-militarist, anti-missile struggle of the peoples, which by the very logic of things is taking the form of a struggle against Washington's adventurist policy. An agreement on an interim solution, the American WASHINGTON POST writes frankly, would mean that the Soviet Union will in essence legitimize the deployment of some of the American missiles. And this would help to undermine the European peace movement and would knock the ground from under the feet of those who are opposed to the deployment of American missiles. That is what they wanted. They want to get us to legitimize the American nuclear arms race and the deployment of devices of mass destruction aimed against our country.

The press conference of the USSR minister of foreign affairs was a worthy, and, one must suppose, a sobering reply to these clumsy attempts.

Reasons Option Unacceptable

LD052258 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 5 Apr 83

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Georgiy Zubkov]

[Text] You see in front of you a map which depicts the location of American medium-range nuclear instruments [sredstva] in Europe. [Camera shows map of Europe.] This map is from the book "Otkuda Iskhodit Ugroza Miru." ["Whence the Threat to Peace?"; camera briefly shows cover of book.]

In Western Europe the United States has deployed 720 aircraft which carry nuclear arms. They are sited at bases in Britain, Spain, West Germany, Italy and Turkey. The letter "a" in a circle on a map marks the location of nuclear ammunition dumps. More than 7,000 nuclear ammunition [as heard] is stored in 150 depots.

The map also marks aircraft carriers that operate in the seas and oceans around the European Continent. There you have them, these aircraft carriers [Camera again shows map.] The map also marks almost 600 U.S. nuclear missiles which are to be deployed in Europe. But the map does not yet show British and French nuclear forces; that is to say, 162 medium-range missiles and similar aircraft: 55 British bombers and 46 French ones.

The U.S. Administration pretends that these missiles and aircraft do not exist and does not take the British and French nuclear forces into account at the talks on limiting nuclear arms in Europe.

At his press conference in Moscow, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko showed yet again in a convincing manner how untenable such opinions are. These missiles indubitably constitute a part of the total forces of NATO. How many statements have been made on this score, Comrade Gromyko said. Hundreds, or, if you like, thousands of statements -- most solemnly proclaimed -- to the effect that the British and French nuclear forces constitute an integral part of nuclear forces of NATO as a whole.

Having set aside these nuclear forces, they propose to us that we should look for an agreement. This is not a serious proposal. That is why the Soviet Union regards the so-called interim option, of which President Reagan has spoken in his recent speech, as unacceptable. It is unacceptable because it fails to take into account the British and French medium-range nuclear means; nor does it take into account the U.S. nuclear arms carrying aircraft. It is also unacceptable because this interim option would provide for the elimination of Soviet medium-range missiles in the Asian part of our country, even though they bear no relation to Europe whatsoever.

DANGER SEEN IN U.S. PLANS FOR STEALTH MISSILES

PM051215 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 2 Apr 83 p 3

[A. Mozgovoy commentary: "Who Will Profit by the Cruise Missiles?"]

[Text] Thornton Wilson's beaming face appeared 3 years ago on the cover of the U.S. TIME magazine. The president of the board of the Boeing Corporation had sufficient grounds for joy. At that time, at the end of March 1980, the Pentagon had signed a \$4 billion contract with the corporation headed by Wilson for the production of the strategic air-launched cruise missiles [ALCM] ALCM-B. At present, between 12 and 20 of these missiles are installed on B-52 bombers (incidentally also built by the Boeing Corporation).

But quite recently, like a bolt from the blue, there came some news which was quite unpleasant for Boeing: President Reagan announced cutbacks in the ALCM-B program. No allocation for their procurement is provided in fiscal 1984. And what is happening about the \$4 billion promised to the company? And what has happened to the leader of the Republican administration, who quite recently called the ALCM program "a vitally important system of strategic potential" for the United States? Could it be that the master of the White House has at last understood the U.S. public's appeal to take concrete steps toward disarmament?

In cutting back the ALCM production program President Reagan was in no way influenced by an aspiration to curb the arms race. The point is that U.S. Air Force commanders have admitted that the USSR's air defense would be capable of shooting down the B-type cruise missiles. This in no way corresponds with the Washington strategists' aggressive plans. This is why the Republican administration's head has decided to replace the cruise missiles with...cruise missiles, but of a new type using so-called "stealth" technology. This technology is being elaborated mainly for the next generation of strategic bombers. According to the designers' plans, the specially "smoothed" body configuration and the use of materials which absorb radar beams to a large extent will make it possible to create aircraft which are "invisible" to radar posts. It is true that authoritative experts confirm the impossibility of attaining total "invisibility" and that it is not difficult to develop countermeasures which would render the "stealth" technique quite unreliable. Nevertheless, people in the White House and the Pentagon, blinded by a superiority complex, have no desire to take warnings into account and are throwing themselves into a race for yet another militarist gadget, which would allegedly determine the superiority of the U.S. military machine.

According to U.S. newspaper reports, there is a furious battle between the U.S. armaments monopolies for the multibillion kitty which would accrue to the firm signing the production contract for "invisible" cruise missiles. In actual fact, passions about the forthcoming deal are being fanned artificially. Judging by everything, the order will be given to the very same Boeing Corporation, and TIME magazine will have an opportunity to publish again Thornton Wilson's beaming face.

But even if it were not Boeing, but some other monopoly which profits from this regular Pentagon program, the essence of the matter does not change. It is the United States' striving to ensure for itself a first strike weapon and achieve superiority in strategic arms. It is not an accident that the new cruise missile will have a significantly bigger range -- almost 10,000 km (as against 2,500 km for the current model). Furthermore, it will have higher flying speeds and greater targeting accuracy.

The alleged gap between the United States and the Soviet Union in the military sphere, which is incessantly proclaimed in Washington, has the sole purpose of diverting the public's attention from the Pentagon's sinister preparations to wage "limited" and "protracted" nuclear wars, from which the reckless U.S. strategists expect to emerge victorious. It is not by accident that THE WASHINGTON POST writes: "President Reagan's decision to switch over to the radar-cheating 'invisible' type of ALCM presupposes a deliberate deception of Americans in the hope of simultaneously deceiving the Kremlin." Really, the very striving to ensure "invisibility" is evidence not of the defensive, as people in the Pentagon insist, but of the particularly offensive character of the weapon.

In the opinion of U.S. expert D. Morrison, "the production of the new cruise missiles will no doubt enhance the nuclear threat and increase the chance of accidentally starting a nuclear war." The radar operator could mistake any object for an attacking missile and then the irreversible could happen.

This, unfortunately, is what those who make policy on the banks of the Potomac are unable or unwilling to understand. Their course failed a long time ago, and the more billions they throw into the insatiable jaws of the Boeings and the Lockheeds, the deeper will be the economic and political crisis gripping America.

U.S. DRAFT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS BAN VIEWED

PM051419 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 13, Mar 83 pp 22-23

[S. Korshunov article: "Disarmament Committee: The U.S. Against Substantive Talks"]

[Text] The various disarmament talks the U.S. is conducting with the Soviet Union have been marked by one and the same regrettable tendency on the part of the U.S. representatives: their readiness to indulge in endless rhetoric combined with unwillingness to reach constructive decisions. All this, moreover, proceeds against the background of their frenzied arms build-up, an exercise that looks like a mockery of the very idea of negotiations. One of the most striking examples of this is the position taken by the United States in the Disarmament Committee as reflected in the U.S. document of February 10, 1983, entitled "United States Detailed Views on the Contents of a Chemical Weapons Ban."

It is common knowledge that the amount of chemical weapons stockpiled by the Pentagon at its 11 bases at home and abroad is sufficient to destroy all life on earth 50 times over. The Reagan administration, however, is not satisfied with these stocks and has asked Congress for additional funds for the production of new chemical weapons, the so-called binary bombs and artillery shells. These are but the first sinister steps in the "chemical rearmament" planned by the U.S. military and now being carried out by the White House with all speed. It is estimated that the rearmament programme will take five years and cost \$10 billion. Construction of production facilities for the manufacture of these weapons is already under way in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

At the very same time the U.S. delegation at the Disarmament Committee goes all out to push through what the U.S. press presents as a new approach to the chemical weapons ban and a "means to break the deadlock." The "novelty" of this approach consists in additional verification requirements to be included in the agreement that drafting of which is being dragged out through the fault of Washington.

If the U.S. were seriously concerned over the verification problem, if it really wanted agreement to be reached on the banning of chemical weapons, it should not have begun arming itself with binary bombs and shells. No one with any knowledge of the subject could fail to see that the introduction of such weapons would make the already complicated problem of verification still more involved, inasmuch as the individual components of the binary weapon can be stored separately and brought together in a bomb or shell just before being used.

Nevertheless the U.S. and its allies did not support the U.N. General Assembly resolutions adopted on the initiative of the USSR and other socialist countries and calling for renunciation of the production and deployment of binary and other types of chemical weapons. They have also rejected the proposals of the Warsaw Treaty countries to rid Europe of these weapons. Yet the implementation of these initiatives would undoubtedly create a favourable atmosphere for expediting the drafting of a relevant convention.

As regards the new U.S. document submitted to the Disarmament Committee, it is in line with Washington's overall negative approach to the chemical weapons issue. As a whole there is nothing essentially new or "revolutionary" in it, as Washington so loudly claims. The new elements it does contain complicate rather than facilitate the drafting of a mutually acceptable agreement. In general, the new U.S. proposals are intended not to bridge the gap between the positions of the sides on key issues but, on the contrary, to widen it.

It is quite clear that the U.S. does not want to get the talks out of the blind alley into which it has led them. Yet delay in establishing a ban on chemical weapons means not only further complicating the verification problem and increasing the stockpiles of chemical weapons, but also adding to the number of countries possessing them. Indeed toxic agents that could be used for chemical warfare are relatively easy to produce, and this is fraught with the danger of their spreading all over the globe.

To remove chemical weapons from the arsenals of states and rule out the very possibility of their being used is one of the most urgent tasks in the struggle for practical disarmament measures. A sound basis for tackling this task is provided by basic provisions of a convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and on their destruction put forward by the USSR in the summer of 1982. This document takes into account the wishes of other countries, including the U.S., also as regards verification. In this way the U.S.S.R. clearly demonstrated that it is just as interested in establishing reliable means of verifying observance of agreement commitments as anyone else.

The convention, the U.S.S.R. holds, should provide for strict control based on national means and international procedures. It treats in detail also of confidence-building measures related to the destruction of the chemical weapons' stocks and facilities for their manufacture, while preserving the right of its signatories to produce, acquire and utilize a certain amount of toxic agents for legitimate purposes described in relevant regulations.

The Soviet proposal also includes such important provisions as the commitment not to deploy chemical weapons on the territories of other countries, to remove chemical weapons from the territories of foreign countries if deployed there previously and to take the necessary measures to protect the population and the environment when chemical weapons and the facilities for their manufacture are destroyed.

While admitting the constructive character of the Soviet proposal, the U.S. persists in giving priority exclusively to questions of verification, and, judging by its latest document, the U.S. stand on the issue has been considerably toughened. This approach leads the talks away from the essence of the problem.

Finally, in their desire to undermine existing agreements and complicate the reaching of new ones, the U.S. and other Western countries have in recent years launched a slander campaign alleging that there have been instances of violation by the U.S.S.R. of the 1925 Geneva protocol prohibiting the use of chemical and biological weapons in war and of the convention prohibiting the use of bacteriological weapons.

Thus, the new U.S. draft is nothing but a propaganda ploy on the part of Washington designed to dull the vigilance of the world public by creating the false impression that the U.S. really desires to reach agreement. The architects of Washington strategy would do well to remember, however, that world public opinion today is quite capable of judging for itself which proposals are genuinely constructive.

WEST URGED TO RESPOND TO BLOC MBFR PROPOSALS

PM012209 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 83 First Edition p 5

[Boris Orekhov "Commentator's Column": "When Silence Is Not Golden"]

[Text] Vienna [no date given] -- The latest, 29th round has ended at the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe.

During the round the attention of the participants in the talks and of observers centered on the socialist countries' initiatives, which open up a real opportunity to overcome the deadlock at the talks.

On 17 February the Soviet Union, on behalf of the GDR, Poland, the USSR and the CSSR -- in other words, all the socialist states participating directly in the Vienna talks -- submitted new proposals based on the coordinated line determined by the Prague conference of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee.

This year the Vienna talks will celebrate their 10th anniversary, but no specific accords have yet been reached in the Hofburg Palace. Of course, the 10 years have not been in vain: There are positive processes that have improved the sides' mutual understanding. But this is clearly not enough, since the main aim of the talks has not been achieved. The reason for this is that the solution of the problem for whose sake the Vienna talks are being held has been blocked by sterile arguments about the quantitative composition of the troop contingents in the area of the future reductions -- arguments imposed by the West.

In order to overcome this obstacle, the socialist countries are proposing a simple and practical approach: agreeing on the production of armed forces to equal collective levels regardless of the divergences in the sides' estimate of each other's current troop strengths. The subsequent freezes proposed by the socialist countries on the levels of armed forces and armaments of all the direct participants in the talks in the form of mutual political commitments pending a final agreement can also be implemented.

While putting forward the new approach toward solving the pressing problems, the socialist states are also proposing an initial step that would make it possible to get things moving right now, even before the formulation of an agreement covering the armed forces and armaments in central Europe of all 11 direct participants in the talks. This step is the reduction by the Soviet Union and the United States of their Armed Forces on a basis of mutual example, which would initiate the practical lowering of the levels of dangerous confrontation between the two military-political alliances.

Progress at the Vienna talks, which can be achieved on the basis of the Warsaw Pact states' new initiative, would certainly contribute to generally changing for the better the situation in Europe. However, so far the West's response to these initiatives has been silence. And this is a case where silence certainly is not golden.

COMMENTARY LAUDS SOVIET ROLE IN DISARMAMENT

LD070632 Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 7 Apr 83

["UN: To Curb the Arms Race" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS -- TASS news analyst Vladimir Matyash writes:

This year's first session of the UN special committee for the world conference on disarmament is being held at the UN Headquarters in New York. The members of the committee are 40 states which represent all regions of the world.

The idea of the conference as the most universal and competent forum to discuss the most burning problem of the present was put forward by the Soviet Union and broadly approved by the world community of nations. At its latest, 37th session, the UN General Assembly emphasized that the convocation of the world conference could promote success of negotiations on disarmament.

In the opinion of the Soviet Union and other socialist states, such a forum could elaborate an efficient approach to the problem of curbing the arms race. In the centre of the conference's attention should be the problems linked with the termination of the arms race, averting the threat of a nuclear catastrophe which hangs over the world.

As to the United States and its NATO partners, they openly resist the idea of convocation of such a world forum. This is not accidental. Such a representative conference is bound to focus the attention of the world public on Washington's unprecedented militaristic preparations and to firmly denounce U.S. and NATO aggressive plans as a whole, the plans aimed at aggravation of the situation in the world and escalation of the arms race.

Now that the international situation has heightened, it is the priority task of the community of nations to strengthen international peace and security, to ward off the threat of a nuclear war from mankind, to make a tangible contribution to curbing the arms race and attaining the aims of disarmament.

The policy of peace, peaceful coexistence of countries with different social systems, which is consistently conducted by the Soviet Union, exerted a favourable impact on the entire activities of the United Nations. Our country's firm actions against plans of unleashing a nuclear war, planned by the most aggressive imperialist circles, met broad support and understanding at the United Nations. The patent testimony of that is the warm approval at the UN forum of the USSR's large-scale initiatives, aimed at limiting the arms race and averting a nuclear catastrophe. The USSR's important initiative on holding a world conference on disarmament serves the same aim.

Highly appreciated at the United Nations was the Soviet Union's obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and the Soviet Union's call upon other nuclear powers to follow suit. The overwhelming majority of delegations at the General Assembly received with understanding the USSR's readiness to freeze on a mutual basis with the United States the arsenals of nuclear weapons. The UN General Assembly supported the Soviet initiatives aimed at prompt and effective completion of Soviet-American negotiations on limitation and reduction of strategic armaments and limitation of nuclear armaments in Europe.

A broad response at the UN forum was caused by the Soviet proposals to agree without delay on universal and complete prohibition of nuclear weapon tests so as to prevent the creation of its new types, on prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons, the early resumption of the interrupted negotiations on all other issues of limitation and reduction of armaments. It is not accidental that in the decisions of the UN forum it is specially emphasized that the Soviet concrete and constructive initiatives are aimed at curbing the arms race and averting the threat of nuclear war.

It can be stated without exaggeration that activities of the United Nations are keynoted by the peaceful initiatives of the land of the Soviets. This convincingly demonstrates once again how attractive and efficient is the policy of peace and international cooperation, detente and termination of the arms race which the Soviet Union firmly and invariably conducts jointly with other countries of the socialist community.

WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING DETAILED

LD061514 Moscow TASS in English 1424 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Prague, April 6 TASS -- A meeting of the Foreign Ministers Committee of Warsaw Treaty member states opened here today.

Taking part in it are the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Petr Mladenov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic Frigyes Puja, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic Oskar Fischer, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Polish People's Republic Stefan Olszowski, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania Stefan Andrei, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Andrey Gromyko and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Bohuslav Chnoupek.

The participants in the meeting were warmly greeted by the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek.

Being studied are questions connected with the implementation of the proposals and initiatives set forth by the Prague meeting of the Political Consultative Committee with the aim of averting nuclear war, continuing and consolidating the process of detente, solving problems of disarmament, strengthening security and developing cooperation in the European Continent and in the whole world.

Attending the meeting, which is passing in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding and comradely cooperation, are also deputy ministers of foreign affairs, advisers and experts.

On the same day the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic held a dinner in honour of the foreign ministers attending the committee's meeting.

Talks End 7 April

LD071026 Moscow TASS in English 0953 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] Prague April 7 TASS -- A regular meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Warsaw Treaty member-states drew to a close here today.

Husak Receives Ministers

LD071104 Moscow TASS in English 1042 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] Prague April 7 TASS -- Today Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, president of Czechoslovakia, received the ministers of foreign affairs of the Warsaw Treaty member states. The meeting passed in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Gromyko Departs for Home

LD071304 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1250 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] Prague, 7 Apr (TASS) -- Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and USSR minister of foreign affairs, who had been participating in the session of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the Warsaw Pact member-states, left Prague for home today.

PRAVDA REVIEWS BOOK ON CEMA ECONOMIC PLANNING

PM070913 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 83 First Edition p 4

[Book review by B. Barakhta: "An Important Reserve"]

[Text] One of the fundamental advantages of socialism is the systematic development of social production. Evidence of this can be seen in the socialist community countries' achievements in many spheres, mainly in the economy. The CEMA member-countries today produce approximately one-third of the world's industrial output.

The fraternal countries have accumulated varied experience in the organization of planning and managing the national economy. There is no doubt that this is an important common reserve for the community's countries in their further progress along the road of building socialism and communism and in resolving the major problems of economic and social development.

The main task of the CEMA member-countries' economic policy at the present stage is to make the transition to a predominantly intensive road of development in order to raise the efficiency of all social production. One of the important means to accomplish this task is to improve the planning and management of the management of the national economy and to systematically develop international economic links.

These topical problems are examined in a collective monograph (footnote: Problems of National Economic Planning [Problemy Narodnohozyaystvennogo Planirovaniya], Moscow, Ekonomika publishing house, 1982) prepared by leading economic scientists from Bulgaria, Hungary the GDR Mongolia, Poland, the USSR, and Czechoslovakia. The book formulates general theoretical and methodological provisions on the main issues of national economic planning and its improvement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism under the conditions of building the new society, and analyzes the general laws and specific peculiarities of the methods, techniques, and organization of planning work in the fraternal countries.

U.S. WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS VIEWED

PM060711 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Apr 83 First Edition p 1

[TASS report under the general heading: "Whence the Threat"]

[Text] New York, 31 Mar -- ~~From~~ talk of the possibility of winning a protracted nuclear war the Reagan administration has proceeded to the accelerated creation of the weapons needed to wage it, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER states.

The Pentagon's budget for fiscal 1984 allocates \$26.3 billion just for research and development for new types of weapons for the mass destruction of people, the article emphasizes. At the same time spending on military research this year will increase 20 percent in real terms compared with last year. Approximately \$12 billion will be spent on developing the Navstar space program, which Reagan has declared a top priority. It will involve 18 space apparatuses ensuring accuracy in guiding bombers and missile-carrying surface ships and submarines onto targets. The military department plans to adopt it by 1988.

In addition, the Reagan administration intends in the very near future to begin creating air-based command centers designed for direct leadership of combat operations involving nuclear weapons. The White House is allocating \$34.6 billion to the entire large-scale program for developing a new command, control, communication and reconnaissance system which, according to the Pentagon's plans, will function continuously under conditions of a protracted nuclear conflict.

Washington, 31 Mar -- The United States is not only developing but already testing qualitatively new strategic arms systems designed for deployment in space. Citing informed circles in Congress, THE WASHINGTON POST has reported that a type of laser weapon designed to destroy enemy targets at a distance of several thousand miles was tested last fall. During the tests, whose results are on the secret list, a system being developed by a specially created industrial consortium was tested.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST, the consortium, which includes the Lockheed Corporation in particular, has received orders from the Pentagon for the production of all the most important components of this laser weapon system.

This is one of at least three space arms systems which are being developed at a rapid pace.

'Militarization' of Science

PM051239 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Mar 83 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Militarization of U.S. Science"]

[Text] Washington, 30 Mar -- The Reagan administration is actively pursuing a course of militarizing U.S. science and enlisting the country's major scientific research centers in the fulfillment of an unprecedented volume of military programs whose cost is estimated at \$2.3 trillion over the next 5 years.

According to the official figures published here, last year alone the Pentagon allocated \$852 million to U.S. universities for work on the creation of the latest arms, combat hardware and apparatus -- this is 20 percent higher than in 1981.

Heading the list of the military's largest contractors from among the higher academic institutions is Johns Hopkins University which received \$235.6 million for scientific research of a military character including research on Aegis, the Navy's latest air defense system. The work of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was assessed equally generously -- at \$216.6 million.

The Pentagon is planning to involve scientific cadres in the arms race on an even broader scale in the future. In so doing, the Reagan administration is resorting to the overt financial blackmailing of the scientific research centers by pursuing a policy of reducing government appropriations for research of a non-military character while at the same time showering dollars on those higher academic institutions and laboratories that willingly cooperate with the Defense Department. This is shown particularly clearly in the implementation of space programs the lion's share of which is in pursuit of exclusively military aims.

The U.S. military has also taken virtually full control of the reusable shuttle flight program which has been assigned an important role in the broad projects for the militarization of space and specifically the launching into orbit of the latest weapons, including laser weapons.

Literally a few days ago, President Reagan announced plans to create a powerful new anti-missile defense system both on earth and in space. Not without reason, a number of the country's major scientists rated this an attempt by Washington to embroil U.S. science in yet another adventure of the "Manhattan project" type which resulted in the creation of the atomic bomb.

Realizing the tremendous danger for the fate of all mankind of the White House's militarist course, sensible American scientists are increasingly firmly opposing participation in the military preparations.

Space Weapons Systems

LD051906 Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] New York April 5 TASS -- The U.S. Administration is busily preparing for placing qualitatively new weapons systems in space.

The weekly AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY reported, in particular, that the U.S. Air Force alone will under the Pentagon's five-year plan of devising new weapons increase spending on the development of space-based laser weapons by more than ten times. By 1988 more than half a billion dollars will be spent for the purpose every year.

At that same time, according to the weekly, the U.S. Army's appropriations to develop laser weapons will nearly treble as early as the next few years.

Washington April 5 TASS -- Carrying out its plans of developing space-based weapons, the Reagan administration is launching another, exceptionally dangerous round in the arms race, declared the participants in a conference here sponsored by the federation of American scientists.

After expressing real concern about these plans, Spurgeon Keeny, a former deputy director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, emphasised that the Reagan administration was putting the entire arms control process in jeopardy.

There was no doubt, said Raymond Garthof, a leading U.S. expert in military matters, that combined with such arms development programs as those covering the MX inter-continental ballistic missiles, the Pershing-2s and the cruise missiles, the projects of developing "futuristic weapons" were called upon, according to Washington's calculations, to give the United States strategic supremacy over the Soviet Union.

Binary Weapons Project

LD060834 Moscow TASS in English 0647 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS -- Washington has once again shown that it continues to devise dangerous plans to build up the U.S. potential of chemical weapons, the newspaper PRAVDA states in its comment on reports on the U.S. Administration's financial requests for 1984 for the production of binary ammunition at a complex which has been specially built at Pine Bluff (Arkansas).

The setting up of the production of binary rounds, PRAVDA writes, is part and parcel of an extensive program being implemented by Washington for a "chemical rearmament of America". In the coming decade the Pentagon intends to spend about 10,000 million dollars for the build-up and upgrading of chemical warfare means.

All those efforts, the commentary says, are being made despite the fact that, as of today, the USA possesses a colossal military chemical potential, of which 55,000 tons of highly toxic agents and 150,000 tons (more than three million units) of various chemical ammunition constitute the basis. Even part of those deadly means is enough to destroy everything living on earth.

This, however, does not stop the advocates of "chemical rearmament", PRAVDA points out. They, like before, ride their old hard run "hobby horse" -- a myth about a "Soviet military threat". Falsehoods as to the USSR's "involvement" in a use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan and South-East Asia are fabricated in the USA in an attempt to divert the attention of the public from U.S. own designs.

The Soviet Union's true attitude to chemical weapons is well-known to the world, PRAVDA writes in this connection. The latest Soviet initiatives in this field, put forward at the U.N. General Assembly's second special session on disarmament, may serve as a vivid illustration of the USSR's readiness to do as much as it can for the removal of the threat to mankind on the part of chemical means of destruction.

The Soviet Union, the commentary stresses, comes out in favour of resuming the bilateral Soviet-U.S. negotiations on chemical weapons, interrupted in 1980 through the fault of the U.S. side, as well as in favour of coordinating a multilateral accord on this matter within the framework of the Geneva Committee on Disarmament. The Soviet Union persistently strives to secure that the chemical threat to mankind be averted.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON MARSHAL USTINOV IN GDR

Ustinov 5 Apr Dinner Speech

LD051523 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Berlin April 5 TASS -- "The reactionary imperialist forces, first and foremost the United States, urge a crusade against communism and hatch plans to obliterate socialism as a system. To the west of your borders, too, there are people dreaming about revenge, both military and social revenge," Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Ustinov, minister of defence of the USSR, has said in his speech at a dinner given in his honour here today by General of the Army Heinz Hoffmann, minister of national defence of the GDR.

"The United States of America jointly with its NATO allies is uncontrollably building up armaments," the Soviet defence minister continued. "Contrary to the will of the peoples, it is taking persistent steps to deploy new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. The United States and NATO are trying to achieve by all means military superiority over the USSR and the Warsaw Treaty Organization. But all these attempts are futile. We will never allow this to happen."

"The imperialist forces, first and foremost the United States, would like to weaken and split up the socialist community," Dmitriy Ustinov stressed. "Washington displays diktat and invigorates the aggressive actions of the reactionary forces virtually in every part of the world. All these demands that our countries take resolute measures in the struggle to safeguard peace and to avert nuclear war."

"The Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic jointly with the other countries of the socialist community are sparing no effort to improve the international political climate. Practical proposals on curbing the arms race and lessening the level of armed confrontation between the socialist states and the NATO countries have been explicitly stated in the Prague Political Declaration of the Warsaw Treaty member countries and tabled at the Vienna talks on the mutual reductions of armed forces and armaments in central Europe. Our proposals are close and understandable to and shared by all those who cherish world peace. The Soviet Armed Forces, the National People's Army of the GDR and the armies of the other Warsaw Treaty countries dependably stand guard over the peaceful work of the peoples of the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic and all the other countries of the socialist community."

Hoffmann's Dinner Speech

LD051627 Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Berlin April 5 TASS -- "Citizens of our country precisely in the present atmosphere realise the many things that depend on close interaction with the Soviet Union," said Minister of National Defence of the GDR, Army General Heinz Hoffmann. He spoke at the dinner he gave here today in honour of a Soviet military delegation headed by USSR Defence Minister, Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Ustinov.

The GDR citizens, Heinz Hoffmann went on, "pin great hopes on our fraternal alliance since they see in it the decisive barrier on the road to the course of the USSR and NATO at confrontation, since they know that an end to these intrigues and to the heightening threat of war can be put only if the socialist states and their armies act at one and with cohesion." [sentence as received]

The GDR national defence minister stressed that soldiers of the National People's Army "regard class brotherhood and comradeship in arms with the glorious Soviet Army as one of the decisive conditions which will prevent imperialism from achieving military-strategic superiority in the eighties or ever again in future."

Ustinov Addresses GDR Regiment

LD062122 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 6 Apr 83

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] The Soviet military delegation headed by Marshal of the Soviet Union Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, today visited a motorized rifle regiment of the GDR National People's Army. Comrade Ustinov and members of the delegation were familiarized with progress in the combat and political training of the unit's servicemen. A meeting of friendship took place with the participation of the regiment's officers and men and also their Soviet brothers in arms men of the guards formation of the group of Soviet forces in Germany.

Speaking at the meeting, Comrade Ustinov conveyed to all the men of the GDR National People's Army sincere greetings and best wishes from Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov. In the present complicated international situation, Comrade Ustinov stressed, the high level of combat capability and the combat readiness of the Armed Forces of our countries is of special importance. They are a decisive barrier in the way of the aggressive strivings of imperialist reaction. There is no doubt that the men of the fraternal armies will do everything to ensure that the peaceful labor of the peoples of the socialist community countries is reliably defended.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Outlines Activities

PM070917 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Apr 83 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Official Friendly Visit"]

[Text] A Soviet military delegation headed by Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, left Moscow for Berlin on 5 April for an official friendly visit at the invitation of the SED Central Committee and GDR State Council.

The delegation comprises: Marshal of the Soviet Union V.I. Petrov; Chief Marshal of Aviation P.S. Kutakhov; Army General V.M. Shabanov; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev; Vice Admiral Engineer S.S. Turunov.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by G.A. Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; B.P. Bygayev, minister of civil aviation; Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy minister of defense and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, USSR first deputy minister of defense; Army General A.A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; USSR Deputy Defense Minister Chief Marshal of Artillery V.F. Tolubko; Marshal of Aviation A.I. Koldunov; Admiral of the Soviet Fleet S.G. Gorshkov; Marshal of Engineering Troops P.F. Shestopalov; Army General A.T. Altunin; Army General I.N. Shkadov and other officials.

The party also included E. Winkelmann, GDR Ambassador to the USSR, and Major General (G.) Oldenburg, military, naval and air attache at the GDR Embassy in the USSR.

At Schoenefeld Airport, flying the national flags of the USSR and the GDR, the delegation was greeted by Army General H. Hoffmann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and GDR minister of national defense, GDR deputy ministers of national defense and generals of the National People's Army. The welcoming party included P.A. Abrasimov, USSR ambassador to the GDR, and Army General M.M. Zaytsev, commander in chief of the group of Soviet forces in Germany. D.F. Ustinov and H. Hoffmann inspected the honor guard to troops from the GDR National People's Army. An orchestra played the Soviet and GDR national anthems.

On the same day H. Hoffmann had a conversation with the Soviet military delegation headed by D.F. Ustinov. During the conversation, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and in a spirit of complete unanimity, D.F. Ustinov and H. Hoffmann rated highly the strong class and combat alliance between the two fraternal countries and their armed forces. The two countries' defense ministers pointed out that world peace is seriously endangered by the efforts of the most dangerous circles of imperialism, especially the United States, to alter the military correlation of forces in their favor. Both sides stressed that in the spirit of the Prague Political Declaration of the Warsaw Pact states' Political Consultative Committee, the troops of the USSR Armed Forces and GDR National People's Army will do all they can to thwart imperialism's aggressive intrigues and reliably defend peace.

At the end of the conversation D.F. Ustinov extended an invitation to H. Hoffmann to pay an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union which he gratefully accepted.

The Soviet military delegation laid a wreath at the memorial to the victims of fascism and militarism on Unter den Linden. A wreath was laid at the memorial to the Soviet liberation troops in Berlin's Treptow Park where a memorial complex has been erected commemorating the exploit of the Soviet people who saved the peoples of Europe from fascism. The wreath's red ribbon bore the inscription: "To the heroic Soviet troops who fell in the struggle against fascism, from the Soviet military delegation." A wreath was also laid at the monument to outstanding figures of the German revolutionary movement at the cemetery in the Friedrichsfelde District of Berlin. Honor guards were drawn up and the USSR and GDR national anthems were played during the laying of wreaths.

The Soviet military delegation was accompanied by H. Hoffmann and other officials.

HUNGARY'S CZINEGE ON 'COMBAT COOPERATION'

PM061247 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Apr 83 First Edition p 5

[Interview with Army General L. Czinege, Hungarian minister of defense, by unnamed TASS correspondent under the rubric "April 4 is Hungary's National Holiday -- Liberation Day": "Brothers in Arms" -- date, place not given]

[Text] On 4 April the working people of Hungary celebrate their national holiday -- liberation day. On this day 38 years ago the Soviet Army drove the Wehrmacht's last soldiers from Hungarian soil.

During the almost four decades which have elapsed since then the Hungarian people have achieved great successes in building a socialist society. Hungary now has modern industry and highly productive agriculture. A great deal has been done during these years in the spheres of social security, culture and education. Socialist democracy has enjoyed extensive development. The Hungarian People's Army, which is a strong link in the system of the Warsaw Pact countries' Joint Armed Forces, vigilantly stands guard over these gains. On the eve of the national holiday, Army General L. Czinege, Hungarian minister of defense, told a TASS correspondent about the successes of the Hungarian People's Army personnel in combat and political training and about the combat cooperation between Hungarian and Soviet servicemen.

The building and development of the Hungarian People's Army, L. Czinege said, are being realized in close combat cooperation with the USSR Armed Forces. Brotherhood in arms with the Soviet Army is a source of strength for Hungarian servicemen. Studying the historical models of fortitude, self-sacrifice, heroism, socialist patriotism and internationalism displayed by Soviet servicemen in the name of defending socialism's gains, Hungarian People's Army personnel seek to be worthy of their brothers in arms.

What specific examples express our armies' cooperation in defending socialist gains?

I could name many of them. The Soviet Army gave us its victorious weapons when the Hungarian People's Army was just being created. Then it provided us with more and more new and more modern arms and passed on the rich experience which it had accumulated over the years of its glorious history. Right from the start the opportunity to send our leading cadres to study at military academies and other Soviet Army educational institutions was an important help to us. Thanks to multifaceted assistance from its elder brother the Hungarian People's Army can today participate in fulfilling common defense tasks alongside the Soviet Army and in the unified formation of the allied states' armed forces.

An important role in this is played by the fact that the fraternal socialist countries, guided by a sense of internationalist responsibility for the fate of all mankind and for a peaceful future, have created a joint defensive organization -- the Warsaw Pact system of allies, which has become a determining political and military factor in the defense of peace in Europe and throughout the world.

In the face of the growing threat of imperialist aggression the MSZMP and the government and people of Hungary show constant concern for the qualitative improvement of the Hungarian People's Army. The process of replacing technical facilities has speeded up in Hungarian People's Army units, as a result of which the role of automatic and semi-automatic systems is increasing all the time.

Our ground forces' firepower has increased approximately 800-900 percent compared with the end of the fifties. As a result of the mechanization of units and formations their maneuverability has increased 700-800 percent. The power available to Hungarian People's Army servicemen is 300-350 percent higher than the level reached 20 years ago. The technical combat facilities available to mechanized rifle companies have increased 1,500 percent over the past two decades. The effectiveness of air defense has been considerably enhanced, and the firepower of air defense troop facilities has increased approximately 400 percent.

The steady qualitative improvement of Hungarian People's Army units has a positive effect on personnel combat and political training results. During a check almost two-thirds of soldiers, subunits, units and formations received the assessment "good" and "excellent." Air defense servicemen received similar assessments during combat firing exercises.

Socialist competition now on a mass scale, helps to raise the standard of combat training. Compared with previous years, a large number of soldiers have been awarded the honorary title of foremost soldier or soldier with excellent combat and political training results. There are far more excellent subunits. One of the formations has received the title "excellent" for the first time, another formation and 11 units have been awarded the title "foremost," and one of the units of the capital's garrison has been awarded the title "excellent."

The fact that a considerable proportion of the exercises is conducted in conjunction with the Soviet Army and the other fraternal armies of the Warsaw Pact countries is of great military and political significance in training the Hungarian People's Army. These exercises include "Shield" and "Druzha." All this makes a significant contribution to improving combat cooperation between our units and staffs and further deepening brotherhood in arms.

The Hungarian People's Army's ties with the southern group of Soviet forces, stationed temporarily on Hungarian territory, are particularly fruitful and multifaceted. We are successfully resolving our common tasks in close cooperation, helping one another in joint work, as befits true brothers in arms.

We are proud that our armed forces received a high assessment at the 12th MSZMP Congress. "The Armed Forces and militarized formations of the Hungarian People's Republic," the congress resolution pointed out, "are worthy of the Hungarian people's trust. Supported by the working masses and within the framework of the system of allies, they are reliably defending our socialist gains and the people's peaceful life. In accordance with Hungary's interests and with regard to the demands of the international situation we are strengthening our defense might and improving our People's Army."

It is a fact of paramount significance today that our fraternal peoples are fulfilling both their socioeconomic and defense tasks in close cooperation and come out jointly in the international arena in the interests of preserving the achievements of the policy of peaceful coexistence and removing the threat of thermonuclear world catastrophe which threatens all of mankind with destruction. We servicemen of the Hungarian People's Army are strengthened in this struggle by awareness of the fact that in the defense of peace and socialism we are in the same formation as such brothers in arms as the soldiers and sailors of the Soviet Army and Navy. The personnel of the Hungarian People's Army cordially greet Soviet Army and Navy servicemen and wish them the successful fulfillment of their responsible combat and political training tasks.

SOVIET-HUNGARIAN TU COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED

PMO61015 Moscow TRUD in Russian 27 Mar 83 p 3

["Communique on the Meeting Between the Leaderships of the AUCCTU and the Hungarian National Trade Union Council]

[Text] Budapest, 26 March -- A Soviet trade union delegation headed by S.A. Shalayev, chairman of the AUCCTU, visited Hungary 20-26 March this year, at the invitation of the Hungarian National Trade Union Council [SZOT].

The Hungarian delegation at the meeting of the leaderships of the AUCCTU and the SZOT was headed by S. Gaspar, secretary general of the SZOT. The delegation was received by J. Kadar, first secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee.

The Soviet trade union delegation visited the Ikarusz association's Budapest bus plant, the Debrecen bearing works, and the Red Star agricultural production cooperative at Nadudvar. The AUCCTU chairman delivered a lecture on the activities of USSR trade unions to Hungarian trade union leading personnel at the SZOT Central School. The trade union delegation of the fraternal Soviet Union was accorded a warm reception and cordial hospitality by the Hungarian working people everywhere.

The talks between the leaderships of the two trade union centers passed in a warm, comradely atmosphere. The sides briefed each other on progress in the implementation of the decisions of their respective party and trade union congresses, and on tasks facing the trade unions of their respective countries at the current stage.

It was emphasized at the meeting that Soviet and Hungarian trade unions are implementing successfully their dual function -- the role assigned to trade unions operating in conditions of socialism by V.I. Lenin -- the role of a school of management, a school of economic activity, a school of communism.

It was noted with satisfaction during the examination of the bilateral relations between the trade unions of the Soviet Union and Hungary that the agreement on the further development of their cooperation, signed in March 1979 between the AUCCTU and the SZOT, was being consistently translated into reality. Soviet-Hungarian trade union links are marked by stability, a diversity of forms, and deep and mutual advantageous exchange of experience in all the main areas of trade union work. The links and cooperation between trade unions, in which broad sections of the trade union active take part, and between the working people of both countries are an important factor in the development and strengthening of the indestructible friendship of the peoples of the Soviet Union and Hungary.

Questions of multilateral cooperation among the trade unions of fraternal socialist countries were touched upon during the meeting. Special attention was paid to problems of further development of cooperation between labor collectives of both countries and of international socialist competition, and also of the participation of trade unions in the implementation of CEMA's comprehensive program.

Participants in the meeting confirmed the full identity of the USSR and Hungarian trade unions' views on all topical international issues and questions of the world trade union movement. It was noted that imperialism is to blame for the fact that the world situation is marked by considerable tension. This is caused, primarily, by the aggressive imperialist circles' incessant attempts to secure military superiority for themselves in order to subject the course of world events to their will. They are seeking to push peoples onto the road of enmity and military confrontation, are stepping up the arms race and developing new types of mass destruction weapons. The trade unions of the USSR and Hungary advocate the strengthening of peace and trust among peoples and disarmament and the relaxation of international tension. The Soviet and Hungarian working people fully support the USSR's peace initiatives and the proposals put forward in January this year by the Warsaw Pact member states for improving the international political climate, and particularly the proposal that a treaty be concluded on mutual nonuse of military force and maintaining relations of peace between the member states of the Warsaw Pact and of NATO.

The trade unions of the USSR and Hungary, it was emphasized at the meeting, condemn the U.S. imperialist circles' and their NATO allies' interference in the internal affairs of the Polish people, and their attacks in connection with the law on trade unions adopted by the Polish Sejm. The participants in the meeting expressed regret at the fact that the leaders of a number of Western trade union centers and their international organizations had joined in this campaign. The trade unions of the USSR and Hungary reaffirm their readiness to continue to give assistance and support to the socialist forces in the Polish trade union movement.

The sides' invariable desire to strengthen solidarity with the working people and trade unions of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea in their struggle for economic and social development in their respective countries, against the imperialist and reactionary forces' aggressive actions, and for strengthening peace and security in Southeast Asia was expressed at the meeting.

The two sides resolutely denounced Israel's criminal aggression in Lebanon, undertaken with the direct support and participation of U.S. imperialism, and Israel's policy of overt genocide against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The demand was expressed that Israeli troops be withdrawn immediately from Lebanese and all other occupied Arab territories and that the just demands of the people of Palestine including their right to set up their own state be met.

The solidarity of the trade unions of the USSR and Hungary with the struggle of the peoples of newly liberated countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America for achieving their full political and economic independence, and readiness to continue and strengthen cooperation with the trade unions of these countries were reaffirmed at the meeting.

The AUCCTU and the SZOT deem it essential to continue the line toward all-round development of contacts and cooperation with the trade unions in capitalist countries in their struggle for peace, democratic transformations, and for the social rights and interests of the working people of those countries.

In the opinion of the sides the cooperation between trade unions of different political orientations and international affiliation in defense of peace, for disarmament and detente is assuming paramount importance in the current international situation. It is necessary, proceeding from this fact, to continue and improve the work of European trade union conferences and tackle preparations for the fifth European trade union conference.

The trade unions of the Soviet Union and Hungary, as was stressed at the meeting, will continue in the future to expand in every way their participation in the WFTU -- the militant class association of working people. The 10th world congress of trade unions displayed the cohesion of the ranks, and the increased authority and influence of the WFTU in the world trade union movement, as well as the attractiveness of its adopted program for the eighties. The sides deem it necessary to concentrate efforts on the implementation of the congress' decisions and on rendering all-round support to WFTU activities. It was noted at the meeting that attempts by reactionary forces in the ILO to use this organization for attacks on socialist countries and their trade unions so as to discredit real socialism had been intensified in recent years. The sides deem it necessary, while persistently thwarting these attempts, to continue the line towards the development of businesslike cooperation within the framework of the ILO with trade unions of different orientation with the aim of drawing up and adopting progressive international norms in the interests of the working people.

The meeting between the leaders of the AUCCTU and the SZOT passed in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and full mutual understanding, characteristic of the relations between the trade unions of the two countries. The sides expressed a deep conviction that this visit, the talks that had been held, and the exchange of views and experience represent an important new contribution to the development of Soviet-Hungarian trade union links and cooperation, and will serve the further strengthening of friendship between the working people of the Soviet Union and Hungary.

GRISHIN, PROMYSLOV GREET BCP LEADERS ON JUBILEE

PM070953 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Cordial Congratulations"]

[Text] V.V. Grishin, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, and V.F. Promyslov, chairman of the Moscow Gorispolkom, have sent a congratulatory telegram to Comrade Chudomir Aleksandrov, secretary of the BCP Central Committee and first secretary of the Sofia BCP City Committee, and Comrade Petur Mezhdurechki, chairman of the Sofia City People's Council Executive Committee, in connection with the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Aid between the USSR and Bulgaria.

The telegram said: The Moscow CPSU Gorkom and Moscow Gorispolkom congratulate you and the communists and working people of Sofia on the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Aid between the USSR and Bulgaria. On the portentous jubilee we note with satisfaction that the fraternal friendship and all-around cooperation between the USSR and Bulgaria meet the vital interests of our countries' peoples and successfully further the cohesion of the socialist community.

It is pleasing to us that with every year friendly links deepen and cooperation improves between Moscow and Sofia party and public organizations and labor collectives. We are confident that these traditional relations between our capitals will continue to develop fruitfully and to make a worthy contribution to the cause of further strengthening the unity of the CPSU and the BCP and of the Soviet and Bulgarian peoples.

We wish you and the working people and inhabitants of Bulgaria's capital new successes in peaceful creative labor to fulfill the plans of the 8th 5-Year Plan and implement the decisions of the 12th BCP Congress.

SFRY INCREASES SALES TAXES TO BALANCE BUDGET

PM070903 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 83 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "SFRY Federal Assembly Decision"]

[Text] Belgrade, 5 April -- TANJUG reports that, in accordance with a decision by the SFRY Federal Assembly, there has been an increase in the tax imposed by the federal budget on retail trade turnover in Yugoslavia. In particular, there is an increase of 10 percent in the tax on sugar, 15 percent in the tax on liquid gas and 5 percent in the tax on spirits. There has also been an increase in the tax on sports equipment and agricultural machinery. The report notes that this measure has been taken in order to balance Yugoslavia's state budget. The tax increases will lead to further increases in the price of these goods.

TASS CITES FRENCH PRESS ON EXPULSION OF SOVIETS

LD071111 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0820 GMT 7 Apr 83

["An Unfriendly Act" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Paris, 7 Apr (TASS) -- "An unfounded and arbitrary act" -- this is the appraisal given by numerous organs of the French press to the unprecedented decision of the French authorities in accordance with which some employees of Soviet establishments in France were told to leave the country. It is perfectly clear, L'HUMANITE writes in this connection, that this decision, apart from the countermeasures which it will evoke on the Soviet side, risks a grave aggravation of the climate of relations between the two countries in all spheres. The economic interests of each of the sides will suffer from this; the cause of peace and disarmament will have been harmed."

As LE MONDE emphasizes, the action of the French authorities is unprecedented in French-Soviet relations, constitutes an extremely rare phenomenon in the history of diplomacy and is tantamount to a serious worsening of relations between the two countries."

LE MONDE does not conceal its surprise at the fact that it was not French journalists but a representative of the American NEW YORK TIMES, "known, as LE MONDE notes, to have close links with American intelligence circles," who turned out to be best aware of the French Government's action. It was precisely THE NEW YORK TIMES that was the first to report the preparations for this hostile action.

Commenting on the statement issued by the French Ministry of External Relations which expresses the view that the measures that have been taken "will not harm the further development of relations with the USSR", LE MONDE writes: "On first reading, this statement cannot but bring a smile to the reader's lips. How can one imagine that French-Soviet relations will be unaffected by an unprecedented measure, by a decision the like of which was not taken even during the murkiest time of the cold war?"

As ECHO points out, Reagan's hand can be detected behind what has taken place in Paris.

Informed French circles confirm that this anti-Soviet action was first and foremost coordinated with the United States.

According to LE MATIN, this action "will have consequences in the area of domestic and foreign policy alike." "We are talking of an unprecedented step in relations between Paris and Moscow which cannot but worsen French-Soviet relations", the first program of the French television station "TF-1", notes.

SPECULATIONS ABOUT KGB ACTIVITY IN FRANCE

Former Officials Interviewed

NC270638 Paris AFP in English 0827 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] Paris, April 7 (AFP) -- The Soviet KGB intelligence service "manipulates about 10,000 agents" in France, former Interior Minister Michel Poniatowski said in an interview today.

III. 7 Apr 83

G 2

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
WESTERN EUROPE

Mr Poniatowski, a long-time senior minister under President Valery Giscard d'Estaing told LE MATIN newspaper: "Generally, one-third of diplomatic personnel here are KGB officers, and the rest work under cover of Aeroflot and Intourist."

"Each KGB agent works with 15-28 collaborators. In addition, the KGB is (?aiding) East European communist intelligence services which have their own special operational spheres."

"For instance the East Germans concentrate mainly on Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe as the economic and scientific sectors."

"The Poles operate in the Middle East."

Mr. Poniatowski said that if the French Government wanted, it could establish links between the KGB and the French Communist Party.

Former Interior Minister Raymond Marcellin, who served under Charles de Gaulle commenting on France's expulsion of 47 alleged Soviet spies Tuesday charged that 72 percent of communist diplomats accredited to member-countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) were intelligence agents.

Former TASS Correspondent

NC061340 Paris AFP in English 1333 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Paris, April 6 (AFP) -- Seventy percent of all TASS foreign correspondents are KGB agents or "associated members" of various Soviet espionage services, according to Aleksey Antonkin, former TASS journalist in China who took refuge in France three years ago.

Interviewed today in connection with the expulsion by France yesterday of 47 Soviet diplomats, Mr Antonkin said that, except for their clandestine activity, the correspondents-cum-KGB agents led an "apparently normal life."

"I can assure you," Mr Antonkin added, "that the TASS bureau chief at Paris, Oleg Shirikov, who has just been expelled, worked like all other journalists. He translated French news articles, corrected copy and sent articles for publication in the daily bulletin "ATLAS," which is distributed to minor ministry officials in Moscow."

Mr Antonkin, who speaks Chinese, English, French and Italian, went to China as TASS correspondent at the end of 1968. After four years of what he described as "normal work as a reporter," he was approached by a Soviet envoy who urged him to offer his services to the KGB, saying that his salary would be doubled.

According to the former correspondent, all "associated members" of the KGB receive twice their usual salary.

Three weeks after he refused the request, Mr Antonkin said, he was recalled to Moscow. As an expert on China and a friend of numerous professors at the Chinese Institute in Moscow, he was able to get a job as a translator.

He managed seven years later to leave the USSR to take refuge in France.

While he noted that most Soviet officials sent abroad are subjected to direct or indirect pressures by the KGB, Mr Antonkin said that a large number of journalists and diplomats have no ties of any sort with the Soviet secret services.

He said that he was among the approximately 30 percent of Soviet journalists abroad who had never provided information to the KGB.

According to the exiled newsman, the recent expulsions of Soviet officials by Western countries "are in no way connected" with the rise to power of Soviet Communist Party chief Yuriy Andropov, himself a former KGB chief.

He also said he doubted that the recent expulsions were in any way linked to the upsurge of pacifist activities in Western Europe, especially in Britain and West Germany.

Mr Antonin said that Moscow has strongly criticized the pacifists, accusing them of "demanding disarmament by both sides, which is to play into the hands of American imperialism."

FINNISH PRIME MINISTER ENDS MOSCOW VISIT

Stenback Luncheon Speech

LD061020 Moscow in Finnish to Finland 1530 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Excerpts] The Soviet Government gave a luncheon today in honor of the Finnish Government delegation led by Mr Stenback. The Soviet side was represented at the luncheon by Nikolay Tikhonov, Geydar Aliyev, Petr Demichev, and other officials. Nikolay Tikhonov made a speech at the luncheon.

In reply Minister Stenback stressed the significance of the joint jubilee. We in Finland have pleasant memories of Premier Tikhonov's official visit to Finland last December. In connection with the 35th anniversary of the 1948 Finnish-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, I have the pleasure to convey to the friendly Soviet people the warmest congratulations and greetings from the Finnish Government and the entire nation.

Although my visit is connected with the Finnish-Soviet jubilee, I would like in this connection to deal with another matter which is important to us: the present situation with regard to detente in Europe and the whole world. At the Madrid follow-up meeting there is at present an adjournment during which the participating countries will discuss the possibility of bringing the conference to a conclusion and the proposals of the neutral and nonaligned countries for a final document. The Madrid follow-up conference has been going on for already more than 2 years, but it has not led to commonly accepted results. This is proof of the difficulties encountered by the participants. At this conference we must approve a final document which would promote the process begun in Helsinki. It ought to mean progress in all the spheres (?marked out) by the CSCE Final Act and should respond to the new challenges faced by the continent. The most important, in our view, is a transition to disarmament in Europe.

I am convinced that such a result in the present international situation would improve the climate. At the same time we would put on a long-term basis the obligations undertaken by the participating states in 1975.

As a result we would be able to show that the foundation of the cooperation of the participants will withstand even cooler climates of international politics if it rests on the foundation of the lasting and real interests of the sides.

(?In discussing) a central issue of international politics which concerns us I would like to note that at the background of this situation in international politics we see increasingly clearly the values which are included in the good-neighborly relations between Finland and the Soviet Union, notwithstanding the fluctuations of world politics. During the 35 years that the Finnish-Soviet treaty has been in force we have observed in our cooperation the principles which were later included in the CSCE Final Act. At present our relations are extensive and bring benefits to both sides. The possibilities of the Finnish-Soviet treaty have by no means been exhausted, and we shall continue to make use of the possibilities offered by this historic treaty. As President Mauno Koivisto has noted, the treaty will in all its points remain topical, effective and viable, Minister Stenback said in conclusion.

Finnish Embassy Reception

LD061750 Moscow TASS in English 1527 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Moscow, April 6 TASS -- The Finnish Ambassador in the Soviet Union Aarno Karhilo today held a reception on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Finland and the USSR.

Present at the reception were Geydar Aliyev, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR; Inamdzhani Usmankhodzhaev, vice president of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; Nikolay Talyzin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, chairman of the Central Board of the "USSR-Finland" Society, the heads of a number of ministries and agencies; representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations.

Also present were the Finnish Government delegation, headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Par Stenback, delegations of the "Finland-Soviet Union" Society and the city of Helsinki, which came to Moscow for the celebrations of the anniversary.

Delegation Departs for Home

LD061831 Moscow TASS in English 1759 GMT 6 Mar 83

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS -- The Finnish Government delegation headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Par Stenback left Moscow for Helsinki today. It took part in the celebrations on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and Finland.

At the railway terminal the delegation was seen off by Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Nikolay Talyzin and other officials. The Finnish Ambassador in the USSR Aarno Karhila was among the send-off party.

Before its departure the delegation visited Zagorsk, where it inspected monuments of Russian architecture and had a conversation with representatives of the Orthodox Church.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ROMANOV HELSINKI VISIT

Koivisto-Romanov Talks

LD061306 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1240 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Helsinki 6 Apr (TASS) -- Mauno Koivisto, president of the Republic of Finland, today received Soviet Government delegation leader Grigoriy Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

During the talk, which took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere, G. Romanov and M. Koivisto exchanged opinions on various aspects of relations between the USSR and Finland and examined certain topical international problems.

It was noted with deep satisfaction that over the past 35 years the principles of friendship, trust and good-neighborliness, which are consistently implemented by both sides in the direction mapped out by the 1948 treaty, have become firmly consolidated in Soviet-Finnish relations.

It was emphasized that the treaty serves as a reliable foundation for the further dynamic and fruitful development of Soviet-Finnish cooperation and corresponds to the long-term interests of the peoples of the Soviet Union and Finland.

During the examination of international problems, the aspiration of the Soviet Union and Finland to continue to facilitate in every way the process of consolidation of world peace, security and development of cooperation in Europe, to wage a persistent struggle to curb the arms race and for disarmament, for further progress of the cause of relaxation of tension in the world was emphasized.

Koivisto Luncheon Speech

LD061239 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1200 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] President Mauno Koivisto has emphasized the positive effect of the Finnish-Soviet 1948 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Finnish-Soviet relations and more extensively on the entire international situation. Koivisto spoke this afternoon at a gala luncheon which he gave in honor of the Soviet delegation which has arrived in Finland to mark the 35th anniversary of the treaty. Kovisto stressed that the positive effects of the good-neighborliness between Finland and the Soviet Union have not been limited to bilateral relations alone. The treaty, for its part, has significantly contributed to stabilizing the security situation in northern Europe, Koivisto said. President Koivisto also stressed that Finnish-Soviet relations have become trusting and independent of the fluctuations in the international situation. This fact is particularly important now that the tension in the world and also here in Europe has grown to a worrying degree, Koivisto said.

Romanov Luncheon Speech

LD061646 Moscow TASS in English 1520 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Helsinki April 6 TASS -- Our mutual relations are developing on the basis of trust and are not dependent on changes in the international situation.

This factor is of great importance especially now when the tension in the world, as well as here in Europe, has increased and causes concern. This assessment of the Finnish-Soviet relations was given by President of the Republic of Finland Mauno Koivisto in a speech at a luncheon he gave in honour of the Soviet Government delegation, led by member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Grigoriy Romanov, staying in Finland in connection with the 35th anniversary of the signing of the 1948 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance.

The luncheon was attended by G. Romanov, members of the delegation, members of the Government of Finland, and other officials.

In his reply statement, Grigoriy Romanov stated with satisfaction that the 1948 treaty provided a durable foundation for the entire set of the Soviet-Finnish relations. Its significance increases with the years.

The treaty made it possible to create a unique atmosphere of mutual respect, broad and durable cooperation, one in which both sides stand to gain, G. Romanov stressed.

The treaty became a major factor of peace and international cooperation both in the north of Europe and on the European Continent as a whole. In many ways, it anticipated the spirit and the directedness of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and cooperation in Europe, signed here, in Helsinki.

USSR Embassy Dinner

LD061827 Moscow TASS in English 1724 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Helsinki April 6 TASS -- A dinner was given in honour of President Mauno Koivisto of the Republic of Finland at the USSR Embassy in Finland today on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Soviet-Finnish Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance. The dinner was attended by leader of the Soviet Government delegation Grigoriy Romanov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, members of the Soviet delegation and members of the Government of the Republic of Finland.

The dinner took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Romanov, Finnish Communists Meet

LD071241 Moscow TASS in English 1226 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] Helsinki April 7 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Grigoriy Romanov today had a meeting with the leadership of the Communist Party of Finland.

Questions of mutual interest were discussed during the conversation that passed in an atmosphere of friendship and frankness characteristic of relations between the CPSU and the CPF.

Taking part in the meeting were member of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Aleksey Shitikov and the USSR Ambassador in Finland Vladimir Sobolev.

Taking part in the meeting from the side of the Communist Party of Finland were the Chairman of the CPF J. Kajanoja; Vice Chairman of the CPF V. Alho; General Secretary of the CPF A. Aalto; Honorary Chairman of the CPF V. Pessi; member of the Political Bureau of the CPF CC, Chairman of the Commission for International Matters of the CPF CC T. Sinisalo; member of the Secretariat of the CPF CC O. Polikolainen.

SEROV COMMENTS ON NORWAY 'ANTI-SOVIET HEARINGS'

LD282120 Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 28 Mar 83

["When There Are No Arguments..." -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS -- TASS commentator Vladimir Serov writes:

Whenever an encouraging clearing appears on the overcast European horizon -- darkened with clouds that have come from overseas -- for instance, if there appear signs of a successful conclusion of the Madrid followup meeting, they overseas use all levers to poison the international atmosphere and not to let the peoples of Europe sigh with relief. Unfortunately the conservative Government of Norway actively supports Washington in such unseemly efforts.

It has been trying lately, with a zeal worthy of a better cause, to revive Washington's expiring slander campaign over the imaginary "violations of human rights" in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, a campaign designed to increase international tension and to disrupt the Madrid meeting. It was with these aims in view that Norwegian Foreign Minister S. Stray, replying in the Storting to the questions of deputies from the ruling Høyre Party, made crude anti-Soviet statements.

Trying to prove that the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act concerning human rights are not observed in the Soviet Union, he distorted the very essence of Soviet foreign policy, turning everything upside down. In the opinion of the Norwegian minister the measures taken in the Soviet Union after the November plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee to strengthen labour and state discipline are allegedly having "an adverse effect" on the conditions of common people (sic). There is hardly any need to prove that quite the contrary is the case, and that these measures are taken to ensure the growth of labour productivity, the progress of the Soviet economy and hence a rise in the living standards of Soviet people. Indeed, into what absurdities can one talk oneself when trying to prove the unprovable.

Unequally awkward were the so-called "international hearings on Afghanistan" held recently in the Norwegian Parliament in order to add fuel to the fire of the anti-Soviet campaign which is being fanned up by Washington. The bandits taking part in the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan were taken to Oslo for this purpose. What nonsense did not they talk at this gathering: They spoke of the "Cuban and Vietnamese units" allegedly taking part in battles in Afghanistan and said many other absurd things. But the "highlights" of the hearings were inventions about "the violations of human rights" in that country -- about the "use of torture there, of Soviet chemical weapons and other actions against the civilian population".

No evidence was presented, of course, because there is no such evidence in existence. There were only false witnesses. But who will believe the evidence of cutthroats whose hands are stained with blood of innocent civilians, residents of Afghan cities and villages? As to objective participants in the hearings, they, contrary to the plans of the sponsors, refused to confirm stories about "the use of chemical weapons by the Russians" in Afghanistan. Among them were Ricardo Fraile, the French lawyer, member of the UN commission of experts who inquired into these false accusations.

So, the anti-Soviet hearings arranged by the Norwegian leaders suffered a miserable fiasco. But the latter do not seem to be embarrassed in the least by this. Mr. Stray has already announced that the materials of these hearings will be forwarded to the UN secretary general. What can be said to this? A lie does not cease to be a lie even if it is repeated a hundred-fold. And the stubbornness with which the Norwegian minister is circulating this lie will hardly bring any laurels to him.

SIZOV-LED CPSU DELEGATION BACK FROM LUXEMBOURG

PM070753 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 83 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Delegation Returns"]

[Text] A CPSU delegation headed by G.F. Sizov, chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, returned to Moscow 2 April after visiting Luxembourg at the invitation of the Communist Party of Luxembourg Central Committee.

III. 7 Apr 83

U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

H 1

SOVIET MARITIME MINISTER ON VISIT TO SYRIA

Meeting With Al-Kasm

LD070705 Moscow TASS in English 0617 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus April 6 TASS -- Prime Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received today USSR Minister of Maritime Fleet Timofey Guzhenko now on a visit in Syria.

During the conversation the head of the Syrian Government spoke highly of the Soviet Union's invariable support for Syria that has been manifested with particular clarity in the recent statement of the Soviet Government. It has been stressed definitely in the document that the Soviet Union is on the side of the Syrian Arab Republic which is threatened with a new aggression by U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

Syria regards the Soviet Union a real friend supporting the just cause of the Arab peoples, the cause of peoples' liberation all over the world, said 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm. Soviet-Syrian friendship based on the principles of equality is being constantly strengthened and developed along all directions and in all spheres of mutual interest for Syria and the Soviet Union, the Syrian prime minister said.

The Syrian prime minister spoke highly of the talks that were held in the Syrian capital with the participation of the USSR minister of maritime fleet, the talks that ended in the signing of intergovernmental agreement on sea shipping between the two countries.

During the conversation Timofey Guzhenko conveyed to 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, to the friendly people the messages of greetings from Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolay Tikhonov. He stressed that relations existing between the USSR and the Syrian Arab Republic are being constantly developed and strengthened in all spheres. The Soviet Union resolutely sides with Syria in its struggle against the imperialist and Zionist plots and perfidious schemes in the Middle East. This is shown clearly by the Soviet Government's statement.

Shipping Agreement Signed; Departure

LD062044 Moscow TASS in English 1851 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus April 6 TASS -- Timofey Guzhenko, USSR minister of the merchant marine, has completed his visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. In the course of the visit an inter-governmental agreement on marine and merchant shipping between the two countries was signed. The USSR minister of the merchant marine also met with 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the prime minister of the Syrian Arab Republic. Today the Soviet minister left for home. In the airport of Damascus he was seen off by the Syrian minister of transport, Yunis Muhammad, and other officials.

USSR PEACE COMMITTEE ISSUES STATEMENT ON SYRIA

LD031325 Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 3 Apr 83

[Text] Moscow, April 3 TASS -- The Soviet peace champions follow with great concern the dangerous aggravation of the situation in the Middle East, says a statement issued by the Soviet Peace Committee.

III. 7 Apr 83

H 2

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Open threats to the Syrian Arab Republic are coming from Tel Aviv. The Israeli Army is now making feverish preparations for a new aggression. This time the purely defensive measures taken by Syria in the face of the threat of an Israeli aggression became a plea for stepping up the threat.

The bellicose ardour of the Israeli leaders, the statement points out, relies on the constant all-round support of the United States. In particular, the delivery of a new batch of U.S. weapons, including the "F-15" and "F-16" fighter-bombers, became known several days ago.

The aims of the aggressive aspirations of the Israeli "hawks" and their U.S. patrons have long been known to the world progressive public.

Those aims are to establish their military-political domination in the region, to undermine in alliance with local reaction the national-liberation movement of the peoples of Arab countries, to consolidate Israel's hold on the occupied Arab lands, and to deprive the Palestinian people of a possibility to exercise their legitimate national rights.

The peace-loving public of the Soviet Union, the statement stresses, is stating its full support for and solidarity with the people of Syria who uphold their sovereignty and independence, and with the liberation struggle of Arab peoples, and is calling on all peace forces to raise a voice of protest against the aggressive plans of Tel Aviv and Washington. The way to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East lies through collective political efforts of all the sides concerned, and not through new wars and aggressions.

SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER RECEIVES KUWAITI ENVOY

LD061713 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Today the first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, Comrade Korniyenko, received the deputy foreign minister of Kuwait, Rashid ar-Rashid, who handed over a message from the amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov.

During a conversation which took place in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere there was an exchange of opinions on a range of issues, among which special attention was paid to problems of removing hotbeds of tension in the Near East region.

CPSU DELEGATION RETURNS FROM MOROCCAN CONGRESS

PM060901 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 83 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Delegation Returns"]

[Text] A CPSU delegation headed by A.V. Romanov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and chief editor of the newspaper SOVETSKAYA KULTURA, has returned to Moscow after visiting Morocco to take part in the Third National Congress of the Party of Progress and Socialism.

COMMENTARY LAUDS MAGHREB RAPPROCHEMENT

LD060247 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 5 Apr 83

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program presented by Vladimir Bilyakov]

[Text] The first months of this year have witnessed extensive diplomatic activity which aims at improving the situation in the Arab Maghreb and at normalizing relations between the countries of this region. An Algerian-Moroccan summit meeting was held. Algeria and Tunisia signed a treaty of friendship. A Moroccan delegation led by Minister of Interior Driss Basri recently visited Algeria. It became apparent from the statement issued at the end of the visit that Algeria and Morocco intend to continue efforts aimed at developing (?peaceful) joint relations. An agreement was reached regarding an Algerian delegation's visit to Morocco during the second half of April in order to continue the talks.

The rapprochement between the Arab Maghreb countries is regarded as an objective process dictated by each country's effort to establish peace and stability in the region. It should be known to all that the disputes among the countries of the Arab Maghreb please only the imperialist circles, particularly the United States of America, which wants to see these countries weak and dependent. The normalization of relations between the Arab Maghreb countries will help to improve the general political climate in the region and to solve the outstanding problems, including the question of the Western Sahara.

SHALAYEV CONFERS WITH NICARAGUAN TU CHIEF

PM061041 Moscow TRUD in Russian 6 Apr 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Meeting at AUCCTU"]

[Text] On 5 April AUCCTU Chairman S.A. Shalayev received Lucio Jimenez, general secretary of the Sandinista Trade Union Center of Working People of Nicaragua, who was passing through Moscow. During their talk, which took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere, there was an exchange of opinions on topical questions of the international trade union movement. Considerable attention was paid to questions of the situation prevailing in Central America.

On behalf of the Nicaraguan working people and trade unions, L. Jimenez expressed profound thanks to the AUCCTU for its constant support of the Nicaraguan people's struggle in defense of national sovereignty and against the intrigues of the counterrevolutionary interventionists inspired by U.S. imperialism.

S.A. Shalayev stated the Soviet working people's indestructible fraternal solidarity with the heroic Nicaraguan people defending the motherland's honor and independence. AUCCTU Secretary A.M. Subbotian attended the talk.

USSR, CUBAN OFFICIALS DISCUSS ECONOMIC TIES

PM051805 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Apr 83 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] A meeting took place 1 April between V.G. Morozov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and H.R. Llompert, president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

MARCHUK RECEIVES CUBAN SCIENCE ACADEMY OFFICIAL

PM051151 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 83 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Expanding Cooperation"]

[Text] On 1 April G.I. Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, received M. Urrutia, first vice president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences. Questions of further expanding and deepening Soviet-Cuban scientific and technical cooperation were discussed. R. Anillo Capote, ambassador of the Republic of Cuba, attended the talks.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS FOR 4-6 APRIL

LD070310 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 4-6 April. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

4 April

There have been prolonged rains on farms situated in the region of the North Crimea canal. The first thousands of hectares have been irrigated -- lands exhausted by the unusually hot weather this spring. The improved land occupies one-fifth of the Crimea's arable land. (0200 GMT)

Farmer in Ulyanovsk Oblast have begun fieldwork earlier than usual. They are carrying out top dressing of winter crops and perennial grasses. Farms in the southern rayons are carrying out selective harrowing of the soil. (0900 GMT)

During the 3d year of the 5-year plan, farmers in the south will dispatch a record 3 million tons of vegetables, cucurbits, fruits, potatoes, and grapes to the state. An agreement on supplying these products was concluded at the interrepublican wholesale fair which ended today. (0900 GMT)

Cotton sowing has begun in many regions of Azerbaijan. Agricultural workers have had to overcome many difficulties connected with the rainy autumn, the dry spring and dry winds. Huge forces were needed to carry out watering. (1000 GMT)

Tajikistan: Cutting of fodder crops is in full swing. The succulent fodder is being delivered directly to the dairy farms, and milk output has begun to increase with the new diet. All fields now freed from the fodder crops will be sown to cotton. (1100 GMT)

In Azerbaijan, 300,000 hectares of cotton are to be sown. Belogorod Oblast farmers have started mass sowing of sugarbeet. They plan to sell 3.32 million tons to the state this year. (1100 GMT)

Sowing is in full swing in Georgia. Bad spring weather has complicated fieldwork, and work had to be interrupted in a number of rayons. Farmers are now working at full speed to catch up. (Sapirali), a new strain of grape which yields 35 - 40 percent more than other strains, is being sown in place of amortized vines in Georgia. (1330 GMT)

5 April

Machine operators in Odessa Oblast have begun sowing corn, the main spring crop in the southern Ukraine. (0200 GMT)

Mass corn sowing has begun in Kirgiziya; 130,000 hectares is to be sown this year. (1300 GMT)

The sowing of early grain and pulse crops has ended in Kabarda Balkar ASSR. One-half of the 20,000 hectares area that has been sown has been given over to oats, peas, and alfalfa for the first time. (1300 GMT)

Mass cotton sowing has begun in Azerbaijan, where the crop will occupy almost 300,000 hectares. Sowing is complicated by lack of moisture in the soil, so harrowing has been carried out everywhere. Early potato planting has begun in Bryansk Oblast. (2300 GMT)

6 April

The repair of sowing and soil-working equipment is currently being completed by machine operators in Omsk Oblast; 13,500 tractors and most of the sowing drills, plows and cultivators have been prepared for spring fieldwork. (0600 GMT)

Ukraine agricultural workers have completed the sowing of peas. Nearly 1.5 million hectares have been planted with this crop. At the same time, mineral fertilizer has been applied to the soil. (0800 GMT)

Snow has left Altay fields early. The grain growers main concern is conserving the maximum amount of moisture. To do this, 8,000 wide-reach units have been built. Early spring harrowing over an area of 7 million hectares is expected to be carried out expeditiously. (0800 GMT)

Volgograd: Moisture retention has nearly been completed on an area of 4,343,000 hectares. Spring fieldwork in the oblast must be done over as brief a period as possible because of dry winds and warm weather -- the likes of which even old people do not recall. Presowing cultivation work has been done on an area of 1 million hectares. Sowing of early grain crops is in full swing in the southern regions of the oblast. (0809 GMT)

Dnepropetrovski: Sowing of early cereal crops has been completed in the oblast in conditions of warm, almost summery, weather. Planting of sugarbeets and potatoes has begun in the oblast, and a number of rayons began sowing sunflowers today. Land set aside for corn this year will be 100,000 hectares more than last year. (0809 GMT)

Soyuz the new, locally grown strain of flax will occupy one-sixth of the total area set aside for flax cultivation in Smolensk Oblast. Sowing and soil-processing equipment has been overhauled fully; as have 88 percent of the tractors. Overhaul of the DT-75M caterpillar tractors is being delayed because the Altay plant, even though it has repeatedly been criticized for this in the past, fails to fulfill its contractual pledges for supplying spare engine parts. (0809 GMT)

Sowing of early grain crops has been completed in Chechen-Ingush in the optimal time from the agricultural viewpoint. Preparations are now underway for industrial sowing of corn and sunflowers. Some 100 brigades and teams which enjoy financial autonomy are in the fields. (1100 GMT)

Dagestan: Land improvement workers have given rice growers 1,000 hectares of new plantations. Of the newly irrigated areas to be handed over for use this year, more than one-half are to be handed over during April. (1100 GMT)

The volume of spring fieldwork is now greater than usual. Due to last year's exceptionally dry autumn, winter crops could not be planted on over 3,500 billion hectares and part of the sowing had to be resown. Taking this into account, the rate of sowing has been high during the past weeks. By 4 April, 15.1 million hectares were covered with early crops. Sowing is underway in 12 union republics. Sugarbeets are being sown in Georgia; work is underway on the fourth million hectares in the Ukraine; and cotton is being sown in central Asia and Azerbaijan. Perko, a new fodder crop is already being harvested in Turkmenia. (1904 GMT)

LATE MARCH WEATHER, CROP DEVELOPMENT REVIEWED

PM060859 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 5 Apr 83 p 3

[Report by agrometeorologist L. Litvinenko under the rubric "The USSR Hydrometeorological Center Reports": The Weather and the Crops]

[Text] Warm weather has settled over the country's European territory. During the last 10 days in March, air temperatures ranged between 5 and 9 degrees, while in the Baltic regions and the western regions of the Ukraine and Belorussia they were between 1 and 4 degrees higher, which is usual for this time of the year. Daytime temperatures reached 20-25 degrees in the Ukraine and the North Caucasus (up to 29 degrees in Krasnodar Kray) and 14-19 degrees in the Central-Chernozem, Nonchernozem and Volga regions. The absolute maximum air temperature was exceeded in these regions.

The warm weather has promoted the fast reduction of the snow cover. By the beginning of April there was snow only to the north of a line linking Petrozavodski, Kostroma, Kirov, Kazan and Kuybyshev. Over most of Lithuania, Belorussia, the Central-Chernozem Region and Saratov Oblast the soil has fully thawed out.

Mass sowing of early spring crops and other field work is in progress in the Ukraine, the southern Central-Chernozem Region, the North Caucasus, Rostov Oblast and the lower Volga Region. It has started 12-18 days earlier than usual.

Winter crops are vegetating in the Ukraine, the North Caucasus and the lower Volga Region. Following the reduction of the snow cover in Lithuania, Belorussia, most of the Central Region and the central Volga Region, vegetation of winter grain crops and seed grasses resumed on individual days. In these areas the fruit and strawberry bushes are in full bud 2 and 1/2 to 3 weeks earlier than usual. In southern Ukraine and the North Caucasus the fruit trees have blossomed and in parts of the southern Krasnodar Kray the apricot trees are in bloom.

Moderately warm and predominantly dry weather has persisted over the Transcaucasus Region. Daytime air temperatures reached 18-23 degrees and 28 degrees in western Georgia. Slight ground frost occurred at night in places. The growth of winter crops and the blooming of apricots, damsons and early plums continues in the Transcaucasus. Fruit crops are being transplanted in the open here.

Warm weather (4-6 degrees above normal) occurred over the agricultural areas of northern Kazakhstan and western Siberia. There was either no precipitation, or it occurred over 1 or 2 days. In northern Kazakhstan and western Siberia (with the exception of southwestern and central regions of Altay Kray) the winter crops are covered by snow. The minimum soil temperature at winter crop tillering node depth did not fall below 2-3 degrees below zero. In southern Kazakhstan air temperatures were close to normal.

Eastern Siberia was 2-4 degrees warmer than usual. In southern Krasnoyarsk Kray, Irkutsk Oblast and the Baykal region the snow has diminished in places in the fields. In the remaining territory it is between 5 and 28 centimeters deep, and in places deeper.

The weather in Central Asia was cool (1-2 degrees below normal). The maximum air temperature during the 10-day period ranged between 18 and 23 degrees, with slight frost at night. Spring sowing work is actively in progress in the Central Asian republics.

Fields are being prepared for cotton sowing and selective cotton sowing has started in lighter soils. The growth of winter crops and seed grasses continues. The height of alfalfa in southern areas of Central Asia has reached 20-35 centimeters, and basically 10-17 centimeters in the remaining areas. Apricots and damson trees have basically finished blossoming. The blossoming of cherries and apples has started 1 to 1 and 1/2 weeks earlier than usual. Leaves are unfurling on mulberries and vines.

PROGRESS OF SPRING SOWING CAMPAIGN REPORTED

CSA Data Summary

LD062215 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] The USSR Central Statistical Administration has today summarized data on the course of sowing work at kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The early spring has made it possible for various spring crops to occupy more than 15 million hectares by the beginning of this week. Sowing has almost been completed of early grain crops at the majority of farms in southern regions of the European part of the country. Taking into account the early departure of the snow, the quick increase in temperatures, machine operators in tilling the soil are in the main using moisture retention technology -- flattening levelling, and rolling the fields. In the south, healthy shoots of grain crops sown this spring have been obtained.

Mass sowing of sugar beet and sunflower is underway at kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the North Caucasus, Ukraine and Moldavia. Work on the sowing of corn for grain is getting in to full swing. In the Ukraine specialized flax teams have started sowing work; 630,000 hectares are occupied by planted cotton in the country. In the central regions of the country the southern border of the sowing work has already reached the Nonchernozem Zone.

Agriculture Ministry Official

LD062142 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Over 15 million hectares have been sown to various spring crops in the country at the start of this week. Comrade Parshin, deputy chief of the main administration for crops of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, reported that in recent days there has been a slight drop in temperature in the Ukraine, Moldavia and Northern Caucasus, and that there has been rain in places here. This has promoted the formation of good shoots. The first greenery has already appeared on a considerable area of summer crop fields. Taking account of the unusually early spring, work is being carried out everywhere in such a way as to reduce as far as possible the disturbance of the soil and thus preserve moisture.

Over 10 million hectares of fields have been sown to grain crops. The grain sowing plan has been virtually completed in the southern regions of the country. Machine operators are now beginning to sow corn for grain; to date Uzbekistan has sown most of this crop. As a rule phosphorous fertilizer is applied to the furrows at the same time as the seeds are sown. The frontiers of the sowing now pass through Belorussia, the southern Nonchernozem Zone and the lower Volga.

Mass sowing of sugar beet is under way in the main regions where it is grown. Work on this is nearing completion in southern Ukraine, Moldavia and many farms of the Northern Caucasus. Sowing of sunflower is also ending in Georgia. A considerable volume of work on sowing cotton has already been completed; it has been sown on 630,000 hectares.

Considerably more fine fiber cotton has been sown than by the same date last year. Mass sowing of flax is underway in the Ukraine. Planting of early vegetables is proceeding rapidly and in an organized way; over 200,000 hectares has been planted with cold-resistant vegetables. A considerable amount of work has been carried out on cultivating winter crops; they have been top dressed on 25 million hectares; half of which area is in the RSFSR.

NEW GEORGIAN AGRICULTURAL BODY CONVENES

PM051147 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 17 Mar 83 p 1

[GRUZINFORM report: "The Land Now Has One Master"]

[Text] The Georgian SSR State Committee for Agricultural Production, which includes the Ministries of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and Water Resources and the Georgian State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture [Gruzgoskomselkhoztekhnika], is setting to work. The tasks facing it have been discussed by the participants in a republic conference held at the Georgian CP Central Committee.

The conference was opened with an introductory speech by D.I. Patiashvili, secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee.

The main thing in the work of the republic's new agricultural production headquarters and the various aspects of its activity were discussed by G.D. Mgeladze, chairman of the Georgian SSR State Committee for Agricultural Production; D.Ye. Sarishvili and G.E. Gadeliya, first deputy chairmen of the same committee; C.G. Vardzelasvili, deputy chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, and the leaders of the agroindustrial associations of nine of the republic's rayons.

Then E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee, delivered a speech at the conference.

The conference noted that the creation of a single organ for managing the processes of the production of arable and stockraising output has been dictated by life itself.

Since 1974, when the Abashskiy experiment began, practical experience has made several amendments to it. The rayon agroindustrial association is now a universally recognized form of agricultural administration. Nonetheless even it is far from perfect. Departmental lack of coordination is still making itself felt. Here is a characteristic example. Last year Sagaredzhoyskiy Rayon obtained extremely poor yields of sunflowers, cereals and corn. All the work was done by machine operators from the Rayon Gruzgoskomselkhoztekhnika Association.

It would seem that the Selkhoztekhnika should bear the responsibility for such deplorable results. Nothing of the kind. On the contrary, the association obtained in full from the farms the payment stipulated by contract for the package of work performed.

The conference cited many such paradoxical examples. The conclusion to be drawn from them is unequivocal: When engaging in cultivating areas of land defined by contracts with farms, the Selkhoztekhnika was not interested in the end result -- in the harvest. That is why mechanical operations were frequently carried out in contravention of agricultural deadlines and to a poor standard.

Here, as in other sectors, the factor of the land's lack of a single master had an effect.

The pooling of the efforts of the agricultural ministries and departments pursues a simple, clear aim: the land should have a single master. Only when the question is posed in this way can all management of agriculture accord with this aim and serve it. The task of concentrating manpower, material and technical and financial resources can be resolved successfully only under the conditions of a single organ of leadership of agricultural production.

The new state committee, which concentrates manpower, material and financial resources, is designed to define all policy in the countryside, to resolve problems of intensifying agricultural production promptly and effectively, and to bear full responsibility for the state of affairs in agriculture.

With the state committee's creation an opportunity has emerged for totally eliminating departmental barriers and superfluous duplicate echelons, making more rational use of funds and human resources and considerably facilitating the activity of party raykoms and rayon agroindustrial associations in resolving many current questions of socio-economic development.

The conference noted that the course steered in the republic toward improving agricultural management wholly and fully accords with the requirements made of agricultural production at the present stage. The concentration of 4 organs of management creates favorable conditions for developing production forces, intensifying the sector onto an industrial footing, and intensifying it. Here, today, now that a new stage in management in the countryside is beginning, it is necessary to intensify party influence in every way on all echelons of management of agricultural production.

Under present conditions it is extremely important to set up locally a system for obtaining and processing information to react more promptly to particular phenomena. We must also achieve a situation where every leader at any level understands the full gist of the innovation, assesses its advantages correctly, and uses them for the skilled management of agricultural production.

The centralization of the organs of agricultural management opens up broad opportunities for the fuller utilization of existing reserves and the successful implementation of the food program.

An advantage of the new organ of leadership can also be seen in the fact that progressive methods of economic management. The team contract, for instance, will now be introduced into practice more rapidly. The concentration of material, manpower and other resources will make it possible to resolve promptly the problems of the rational use of agricultural machinery and implements.

The arable farmer, machine operator and land reclamation worker are now united by a single concern. This concern dictates their task: increasing the gross harvest of grain, vegetables, potatoes, fruit, and other agricultural output on reclaimed land where harvests have so far been low.

The state committee must link the interests of all participants in the production and procurement of agricultural output more closely and display more concern for achieving good end results. The restructuring of management also sets new tasks for party, soviet and economic organs and all workers at enterprises in the agroindustrial complex.

Everyone should understand that only skilled proprietorial management of affairs will produce a return of the funds invested in the economy's development from the state committee's centralized funds and ensure its growth.

All the state committee's services must now focus attention on the priority tasks. These are primarily the organized execution of the spring sowing campaign, the exemplary completion of livestock wintering, and the ensuring of careful tending of winter crops.

Agriculture workers, the conference expressed with conviction, and workers in other sectors of the republic's agroindustrial complex, on the basis of improving management, will achieve new successes and a further increase in agricultural output.

Taking part in the work of the conference were Georgian CP Central Committee Section Chiefs L.L. Zakaidze and G.S. Mamatsashvili.

KAZAKHSTAN ADOPTS DECISION ON FODDER SUPPLY

LD042210 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 4 Apr 83

[Text] The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan and the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR have adopted a decision on measures on supplying stock farming with fodder during the 1983-84 winter period. It envisages the creation of mechanized brigades and groups in every farm and a supply of them with necessary machinery and fertilizers. Especial attention is being paid to providing cultural and consumer services to stock farmers. Red Challenge Banners of the Central Committee and of the republic's Council of Ministers and money prizes were instituted for winners of competition on fodder procurement.

PRAVDA REVIEWS BOOK ON USSR FOOD PROGRAM

PM071019 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 3 April First Edition publishes on page 2 under the heading "The Whole People's Cause" an 800-word A. Platoshkin review of K.M. Bogolyubov's book "The USSR Food Program: Its Content and Ways of Implementing It" [Prodovolstvennaya Programa SSSR; Soderzhaniye i Puti Realizatsii], published by Moscow's Political Literature Publishing House in 1983. The review notes the "great theoretical and practical significance" of publicizing the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee May (1982) plenum, and outlines the book's treatment of the tasks of the agroindustrial complex and ways of implementing the Food Program. The review does not mention Brezhnev.

BRIEFS

KIROV AGRICULTURAL WORK EXAMINED -- The RSFSR Supreme Soviet Commission on Agriculture has examined issues connected with the work of soviets of people's deputies in Kirov Oblast in strengthening labor discipline of kolkhozes and sovkhoses. The necessity was stated for work in introducing forms of labor organization; for, first and foremost, increasing collective subcontracting; for examining the situation on the spot more profoundly; and for giving effective help to farm leaders and specialists.

[Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 6 Apr 83 LD]